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(71) Applicant: E.I. DU PONT DE NEMOURS AND CO [US/US]; 1007 Market Street, Wilmington, DE 190		
(72) Inventors: MCGONIGLE, Brian; 115 C. Senatori Wilmington, DE 19807 (US). O'KEEFE, Daniel Shaw Road, Ridley Park, PA 19078 (US).		
(74) Agent: FELTHAM, S., Neil; E.I. du Pont de Nem Company, Legal Patent Records Center, 1007 Mark Wilmington, DE 19898 (US).		
(54) Title: SOYBEAN GLUTATHIONE-S-TRANSFER	ASE E	

(54) Title: SOYBEAN GLUTATHIONE-S-TRANSFERASE ENZYMES

(57) Abstract

This invention relates to isolated nucleic acid fragments encoding all or a substantial portion of soybean glutathione-S-transferase (GST) enzymes involved in the detoxification of xenobiotic compounds in plants and seeds. The invention also relates to the construction of chimeric genes encoding all or a substantial portion of soybean GST enzymes, host cells transformed with those genes and methods for the recombinant production of soybean GST enzymes. Methods of constructing transgenic plants having altered levels of GST enzymes and screens for identifying soybean GST enzyme substrates and soybean GST enzyme inhibitors are also provided.

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TITLE

SOYBEAN GLUTATHIONE-S-TRANSFERASE ENZYMES FIELD OF THE INVENTION

This invention is in the field of plant molecular biology. More specifically, this invention pertains to nucleic acid fragments encoding soybean glutathione-S-transferase (GST) enzymes involved in the detoxification of xenobiotic compounds in plants and seeds.

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BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Glutathione-S-transferases (GST) are a family of enzymes which catalyze the conjugation of glutathione, homoglutathione (hGSH) and other glutathione-10 like analogs via a sulfhydryl group, to a large range of hydrophobic, electrophilic compounds. The conjugation can result in detoxification of these compounds. GST enzymes have been identified in a range of plants including maize (Wosnick et al., Gene (Amst) 76 (1) (1989) 153-160; Rossini et al., Plant Physiology (Rockville) 112 (4) (1996) 1595-1600; Holt et al., Planta (Heidelberg) 196 (2) 15 (1995) 295-302), wheat (Edwards et al., Pestic. Biochem. Physiol. (1996) 54(2), 96-104), sorghum (Hatzios et al., J. Environ. Sci. Health, Part B (1996), B31(3), 545-553), arabidopsis (Van Der Kop et al., Plant Molecular Biology 30 (4) (1996), sugarcane (Singhal et al., Phytochemistry (OXF) 30 (5) (1991) 1409-1414), soybean (Flury et al., Physiologia Plantarum 94 (1995) 594-604) and 20 peas (Edwards R., Physiologia Plantarum 98 (3) (1996) 594-604). GST's can comprise a significant portion of total plant protein, for example attaining from 1 to 2% of the total soluble protein in etiolated maize seedlings (Timmermann, Physiol. Plant. (1989) 77(3), 465-71).

Glutathione S-transferases (GSTs; EC 2.5.1.18) catalyze the nucleophilic attack of the thiol group of GSH to various electrophilic substrates. Their functions and regulation in plants has been recently reviewed (Marrs et al., Annu Rev Plant Physiol Plant Mol Biol 47:127-58 (1996); Droog, F. J Plant Growth Regul 16:95-107, (1997)). They are present at every stage of plant development from early embryogenesis to senescence and in every tissue type examined. The agents that have been shown to cause an increase in GST levels have the potential to cause oxidative destruction in plants, suggesting a role for GSTs in the protection from oxidative damage. In addition to their role in the protection from oxidative damage, GSTs have the ability to nonenzymatically bind certain small molecules, such as auxin (Zettl, et al., PNAS 91: 689-693, (1994)) and perhaps regulate their bioavailability. Furthermore the addition of GSH to a molecule serves as an "address" to send that molecule to the plant vacuole (Marrs, et al., Nature 375: 397-400, (1995)).

GSTs have also been implicated in the detoxification of certain herbicides. Maize GSTs have been well characterized in relation to herbicide metabolism. Three genes from maize have been cloned: GST 29 (Shah et al., Plant Mol Biol 6, 203-211(1986)), GST 27 (Jepson et al., Plant Mol Biol 26:1855-1866, (1994)), GST 26 (Moore et al., Nucleic Acids Res 14:7227-7235 5 (1986)). These gene products form four GST isoforms: GST I (a homodimer of GST 29), GST II (a heterodimer of GST 29 and GST 27), GST III (a homodimer of GST 26), and GST IV (a homodimer of GST 27). GST 27 is highly inducible by safener compounds (Jepson (1994) supra; Holt et al., Planta 196:295-302. (1995)) and overexpression of GST 27 in tobacco confers alachlor resistance to 10 transgenic tobacco (Jepson, personal communication). Additionally Bridges et al. (U.S. 5589614) disclose the sequence of a maize derived GST isoform II promoter useful for the expression of foreign genes in maize and wheat. In soybean, herbicide compounds conjugated to hGSH have been detected and correlated with herbicide selectivity (Frear et al., Physiol 20: 299-310 (1983); 15 Brown et al., Pest Biochem Physiol 29:112-120, (1987)). This implies that hGSH conjugation is an important determinant in soybean herbicide selectivity although this hypothesis has not been characterized on a molecular level.

Glutathione (the tripeptide γ-glu-cys-gly, or GSH) is present in most

20 plants and animals. However, in some plants from the family Leguminaceae the major free thiol is homoglutathione. For example, soybeans (*Glycine max*) have nearly undetectable levels of glutathione with the tripeptide homoglutathione (γ-glu-cys-β-ala) apparently substituting for the same functions. Some herbicides are detoxified in soybeans by homoglutathione conjugation catalyzed by glutathione S-transferase (GST) enzyme(s).

Homoglutathione (hGSH) was originally detected in *Phaseolus vulgaris* and several other leguminous species (Price, C.A., *Nature* 180: 148-149, (1957)). The structure of hGSH (Carnegie, P.R., *Biochemical Journal* 89:471-478 (1963)) was determined to be the tripeptide γ-glu-cys-β-ala. Homoglutathione has not been found in non-leguminous species. In plants from

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the family Leguminaceae, the ratio of hGSH to GSH varies according to both species and tissue examined. In seeds and leaves of the tribe Vicieae, only traces of hGSH were found in addition to the main thiol GSH, whereas in roots the hGSH content exceeded the GSH content. The tribe Trifolieae contained both tripeptides and in the tribe Phaseoleae, hGSH predominated. In soybean (Glycine max), a member of the Phaseoleae, hGSH constitutes 99% of the free thiol in leaves and seeds and greater than 95% of the free thiol in soybean roots (Klapheck, S., Physiolgia Plantarum 74: 727-732 (1988)). As such, it is

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essential that soybean glutathione S-transferases be able to efficiently utilize hGSH.

Some efforts have been made to alter plant phenotypes by the expression of either plant or mammalian foreign GST genes or their promoters in mature plant tissue. For example, Helmer et al. (U.S. 5073677) teach the expression of a rat GST gene in tobacco under the control of a strong plant promoter. Similarly, Jepson et al. (WO 97/11189) disclose a chemically inducible maize GST promoter useful for the expression of foreign proteins in plants; Chilton et al. (EP 256223) discuss the construction of herbicide tolerant plants expressing a foreign plant GST gene; and Bieseler et al. (WO 96/23072) teach DNA encoding GSTIIIc, its recombinant production and transgenic plants containing the DNA having a herbicide-tolerant phenotype.

Manipulation of nucleic acid fragments encoding soybean GST to use in screening in assays, the creation of herbicide-tolerant transgenic plants, and altered production of GST enzymes depend on the heretofore unrealized isolation of nucleic acid fragments that encode all or a substantial portion of a soybean GST enzyme.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The present invention provides nucleic acid fragments isolated from soybean encoding all or a substantial portion of a GST enzyme. The isolated 20 nucleic acid fragment is selected from the group consisting of (a) an isolated nucleic acid fragment encoding all or a substantial portion of the amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:2, SEQ ID NO:4, SEQ ID NO:6, SEQ ID NO:8, SEQ ID NO:10, SEQ ID NO:12, SEQ ID NO:14, SEQ ID NO:16, SEQ ID NO:18, SEQ ID NO:20, SEQ ID NO:22, SEQ ID 25 NO:24, SEQ ID NO:26, SEQ ID NO:28, SEQ ID NO:34, SEQ ID NO:36, SEQ ID NO:38, SEQ ID NO:40, SEQ ID NO:42, SEQ ID NO:44, SEQ ID NO:46, SEO ID NO:48, SEQ ID NO:50, SEQ ID NO:52, SEQ ID NO:54, and SEQ ID NO:56: (b) an isolated nucleic acid fragment that is substantially similar to an isolated nucleic acid fragment encoding all or a substantial portion of the amino 30 acid sequence sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:2, SEQ ID NO:4, SEQ ID NO:6, SEQ ID NO:8, SEQ ID NO:10, SEQ ID NO:12, SEQ ID NO:14, SEQ ID NO:16, SEQ ID NO:18, SEQ ID NO:20, SEQ ID NO:22, SEQ ID NO:24, SEQ ID NO:26, SEQ ID NO:28, SEQ ID NO:34, SEQ ID NO:36, SEQ ID NO:38, SEQ ID NO:40, SEQ ID NO:42, SEQ ID NO:44, SEQ ID 35 NO:46, SEQ ID NO:48, SEQ ID NO:50, SEQ ID NO:52, SEQ ID NO:54, and SEO ID NO:56; and (c) an isolated nucleic acid fragment that is complementary to (a) or (b). The nucleic acid fragments and corresponding polypeptides are

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contained in the accompanying Sequence Listing and described in the Brief Description of the Invention.

In another embodiment, the instant invention relates to chimeric genes encoding soybean GST enzymes or to chimeric genes that comprise nucleic acid fragments as described above, the chimeric genes operably linked to suitable regulatory sequences, wherein expression of the chimeric genes results in altered levels of the encoded enzymes in transformed host cells.

The present invention further provides a transformed host cell comprising the above described chimeric gene. The transformed host cells can be of eukaryotic or prokaryotic origin. The invention also includes transformed plants that arise from transformed host cells of higher plants, and from seeds derived from such transformed plants, and subsequent progeny.

Additionally, the invention provides methods of altering the level of expression of a soybean GST enzyme in a host cell comprising the steps of; (i) transforming a host cell with the above described chimeric gene and; (ii) growing the transformed host cell produced in step (i) under conditions that are suitable for expression of the chimeric gene wherein expression of the chimeric gene results in production of altered levels of a plant GST enzyme in the transformed host cell relative to expression levels of an untransformed host cell.

In an alternate embodiment, the present invention provides methods of obtaining a nucleic acid fragment encoding all or substantially all of the amino acid sequence encoding a soybean GST enzyme comprising either hybridization or primer-directed amplification methods known in the art and using the above described nucleic acid fragment. A primer-amplification-based method uses SEQ ID NOS.:1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13, 15, 17, 19, 21, 23, 25, 27, 33, 35, 37, 39, 41, 43, 45, 47, 49, 51, 53, and 55. The product of these methods is also part of the invention.

Another embodiment of the invention includes a method for identifying a compound that inhibits the activity of a soybean GST enzyme encoded by the nucleic acid fragment and substantially similar and complementary nucleic acid fragments of SEQ ID NOS.:1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13, 15, 17, 19, 21, 23, 25, 27, 33, 35, 37, 39, 41, 43, 45, 47, 49, 51, 53, and 55. The method has the steps:

(a) transforming a host cell with the above described chimeric gene; (b) growing the transformed host cell under conditions that are suitable for expression of the chimeric gene wherein expression of the chimeric gene results in production of the GST enzyme; (c) optionally purifying the GST enzyme expressed by the transformed host cell; (d) contacting the GST enzyme with a chemical compound of interest; and (e) identifying the chemical compound of interest that reduces the

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activity of the soybean GST enzyme relative to the activity of the soybean GST enzyme in the absence of the chemical compound of interest.

This method may further include conducting step (d) in the presence of at least one electrophilic substrate and at least one thiol donor. The isolated nucleic acid fragments of this method are chosen from the group represented by SEQ ID NOS.:1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13, 15, 17, 19, 21, 23, 25, 27, 33, 35, 37, 39, 41, 43, 45, 47, 49, 51, 53, and 55, and the soybean GST enzyme is selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOS.:2, 4, 6, 8,10, 12, 14, 16, 18, 20, 22, 24, 26, 28, 34, 36, 38, 40, 42, 44, 46, 48, 50, 52, 54, and 56.

The invention further provides a method for identifying a chemical compound that inhibits the activity of the soybean GST enzyme as described herein, wherein the identification is based on a comparison of the phenotype of a plant transformed with the above described chimeric gene contacted with the inhibitor candidate with the phenotype of a transformed plant that is not contacted with the inhibitor candidate. The isolated nucleic acid fragment of this method is selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOS.:1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13, 15, 17, 19, 21, 23, 25, 27, 33, 35, 37, 39, 41, 43, 45, 47, 49, 51, 53, and 55 and the soybean GST enzyme is selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOS.:2, 4, 6, 8,10, 12, 14, 16, 18, 20, 22, 24, 26, 28, 34, 36, 38, 40, 42, 44, 46, 48, 50, 52, 54, and 56.

In another embodiment, the invention provides a method for identifying a substrate for the soybean GST enzyme. The method comprises the steps of: (a) transforming a host cell with a chimeric gene comprising the nucleic acid fragment as described herein, the chimeric gene encoding a soybean GST enzyme operably linked to at least one suitable regulatory sequence; (b) growing the transformed host cell of step (a) under conditions that are suitable for expression of the chimeric gene resulting in production of the GST enzyme; (c) optionally purifying the GST enzyme expressed by the transformed host cell; (d) contacting the GST enzyme with a substrate candidate; and (e) comparing the activity of soybean GST enzyme with the activity of soybean GST enzyme that has been contacted with the substrate candidate and selecting substrate candidates that increase the activity of the sobyean GST enzyme relative to the activity of soybean GST enzyme in the absence of the substrate candidate. More preferably, step (d) of this method is carried out in the presence of at least one thiol donor. The isolated nucleic acid fragment of this method is selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOS.:1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13, 15, 17, 19, 21, 23, 25, 27, 33, 35, 37, 39, 41, 43, 45, 47, 49, 51, 53, and 55, and the soybean GST enzyme is selected

from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOS.:2, 4, 6, 8,10, 12, 14, 16, 18, 20, 22, 24, 26, 28, 34, 36, 38, 40, 42, 44, 46, 48, 50, 52, 54, and 56.

Alternatively, methods are provided for identifying a soybean GST substrate candidate wherein the identification of the substrate candidate is based on a comparison of the phenotype of a host cell transformed with a chimeric gene expressing a soybean GST enzyme and contacted with a substrate candidate with the phenotype of a similarly transformed host cell grown without contact with a substrate candidate.

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The isolated nucleic acid fragment of this method is selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOS.:1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13, 15, 17, 19, 21, 23, 25, 27, 33, 35, 37, 39, 41, 43, 45, 47, 49, 51, 53, and 55, and the soybean GST enzyme is selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOS.:2, 4, 6, 8,10, 12, 14, 16, 18, 20, 22, 24, 26, 28, 34, 36, 38, 40, 42, 44, 46, 48, 50, 52, 54, and 56.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF SEQUENCE DESCRIPTIONS AND BIOLOGICAL DEPOSITS

The invention can be more fully understood from the following detailed description and the accompanying sequence descriptions and biological deposits which form a part of this application.

The following sequence descriptions and sequences listings attached hereto comply with the rules governing nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence disclosures in patent applications as set forth in 37 C.F.R. §1.821-1.825. The Sequence Descriptions contain the one letter code for nucleotide sequence characters and the three letter codes for amino acids as defined in conformity with the IUPAC-IYUB standards described in *Nucleic Acids Research 13*:3021-3030 (1985) and in the *Biochemical Journal 219 (No. 2)*:345-373 (1984) which are herein incorporated by reference.

SEQ ID NO:1 is the nucleotide sequence comprising the cDNA insert in clone se1.27b04 encoding a soybean type I GST.

SEQ ID NO:2 is the deduced amino acid sequence of the nucleotide sequence comprising the cDNA insert in clone se1.27b04.

SEQ ID NO:3 is the nucleotide sequence comprising the cDNA insert in clone ssm.pk0026.g11 encoding a soybean type II GST.

SEQ ID NO:4 is the deduced amino acid sequence of the nucleotide sequence comprising the cDNA insert in clone ssm.pk0026.g11.

SEQ ID NO:5 is the nucleotide sequence comprising the cDNA insert in clone GSTa encoding a soybean type III GST.

SEQ ID NO:6 is the deduced amino acid sequence of the nucleotide sequence comprising the cDNA insert in clone GSTa.

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SEQ ID NO:7 is the nucleotide sequence comprising the cDNA insert in clone se3.03b09 encoding a soybean type III GST.

SEQ ID NO:8 is the deduced amino acid sequence of the nucleotide sequence comprising the cDNA insert in clone se3.03b09.

SEQ ID NO:9 is the nucleotide sequence comprising the cDNA insert in clone se6.pk0037.h4 encoding a soybean type III GST.

SEQ ID NO:10 is the deduced amino acid sequence of the nucleotide sequence comprising the cDNA insert in clone se6.pk0037.h4.

SEQ ID NO:11 is the nucleotide sequence comprising the cDNA insert in clone se6.pk0048.d7 encoding a soybean type III GST.

SEQ ID NO:12 is the deduced amino acid sequence of the nucleotide sequence comprising the cDNA insert in clone se6.pk0048.d7.

SEQ ID NO:13 is the nucleotide sequence comprising the cDNA insert in clone ses8w.pk0028.c6 encoding a soybean type III GST.

SEQ ID NO:14 is the deduced amino acid sequence of the nucleotide sequence comprising the cDNA insert in clone ses8w.pk0028.c6.

SEQ ID NO:15 is the nucleotide sequence comprising the cDNA insert in clone sr1.pk0011.d6 encoding a soybean type III GST.

SEQ ID NO:16 is the deduced amino acid sequence of the nucleotide sequence comprising the cDNA insert in clone sr1.pk0011.d6.

SEQ ID NO:17 is the nucleotide sequence comprising the cDNA insert in clone ssl.pk0002.f7 encoding a soybean type III GST.

SEQ ID NO:18 is the deduced amino acid sequence of the nucleotide sequence comprising the cDNA insert in clone ssl.pk0002.f7.

SEQ ID NO:19 is the nucleotide sequence comprising the cDNA insert in clone ssl.pk0005.e6 encoding a soybean type III GST.

SEQ ID NO:20 is the deduced amino acid sequence of the nucleotide sequence comprising the cDNA insert in clone ssl.pk0005.e6.

SEQ ID NO:21 is the nucleotide sequence comprising the cDNA insert in clone ssl.pk0014.a1 encoding a soybean type III GST.

SEQ ID NO:22 is the deduced amino acid sequence of the nucleotide sequence comprising the cDNA insert in clone ssl.pk0014.a1.

SEQ ID NO:23 is the nucleotide sequence comprising the cDNA insert in clone ssl.pk0020.b10 encoding a soybean type III GST.

SEQ ID NO:24 is the deduced amino acid sequence of the nucleotide sequence comprising the cDNA insert in clone ssl.pk0020.b10.

SEQ ID NO:25 is the nucleotide sequence comprising the cDNA insert in clone ssm.pk0067.g5 encoding a soybean type III GST.

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SEQ ID NO:26 is the deduced amino acid sequence of the nucleotide sequence comprising the cDNA insert in clone ssm.pk0067.g5.

SEQ ID NO:27 is the nucleotide sequence comprising the cDNA insert in clone se1.pk0017.f5 encoding a soybean type IV GST.

SEQ ID NO:28 is the deduced amino acid sequence of the nucleotide sequence comprising the cDNA insert in clone se1.pk0017.f5.

SEQ ID NO:29-32 correspond to primers used in the cloning of GSTa.

SEQ ID NO:33 is the nucleotide sequence comprising the cDNA insert in src3c.pk026.e6 encoding a soybean type III GST.

SEQ ID NO:34 is the deduced amino acid sequence of the nucleotide sequence comprising the cDNA insert in clone src3c.pk026.e6.

SEQ ID NO:35 is the nucleotide sequence comprising the cDNA insert in sls1c.pk007.j17 encoding a soybean type III GST.

SEQ ID NO:36 is the deduced amino acid sequence of the nucleotide sequence comprising the cDNA insert in clone sls1c.pk007.j17.

SEQ ID NO:37 is the nucleotide sequence comprising the cDNA insert in sls2c.pk002.d9 encoding a soybean type III GST.

SEQ ID NO:38 is the deduced amino acid sequence of the nucleotide sequence comprising the cDNA insert in clone sls2c.pk002.d9.

SEQ ID NO:39 is the nucleotide sequence comprising the cDNA insert in sls1c.pk003.f24 encoding a soybean type I GST.

SEQ ID NO:40 is the deduced amino acid sequence of the nucleotide sequence comprising the cDNA insert in clone sls1c.pk003.f24.

SEQ ID NO:41 is the nucleotide sequence comprising the cDNA insert in sdp2c.pk002.116 encoding a soybean type I GST.

SEQ ID NO:42 is the deduced amino acid sequence of the nucleotide sequence comprising the cDNA insert in clone sdp2c.pk002.116.

SEQ ID NO:43 is the nucleotide sequence comprising the cDNA insert in sfl1.pk127.07 encoding a soybean type III GST.

SEQ ID NO:44 is the deduced amino acid sequence of the nucleotide sequence comprising the cDNA insert in clone sfl1.pk127.07.

SEQ ID NO:45 is the nucleotide sequence comprising the cDNA insert in sfl1.pk126.i6 encoding a soybean type I GST.

SEQ ID NO:46 is the deduced amino acid sequence of the nucleotide sequence comprising the cDNA insert in clone sfl1.pk126.i6.

SEQ ID NO:47 is the nucleotide sequence comprising the cDNA insert in srr3c.pk001.a17 encoding a soybean type III GST.

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SEQ ID NO:48 is the deduced amino acid sequence of the nucleotide sequence comprising the cDNA insert in clone srr3c.pk001.a17.

SEQ ID NO:49 is the nucleotide sequence comprising the cDNA insert in sgs1c.pk001.c16 encoding a soybean type III GST.

SEQ ID NO:50 is the deduced amino acid sequence of the nucleotide sequence comprising the cDNA insert in clone sgs1c.pk001.c16.

SEQ ID NO:51 is the nucleotide sequence comprising the cDNA insert in sl2.pk0010.e2 encoding a soybean type III GST.

SEQ ID NO:52 is the deduced amino acid sequence of the nucleotide sequence comprising the cDNA insert in clone sl2.pk0010.e2.

SEQ ID NO:53 is the nucleotide sequence comprising the cDNA insert in sgs2c.pk001.n19 encoding a soybean type III GST.

SEQ ID NO:54 is the deduced amino acid sequence of the nucleotide sequence comprising the cDNA insert in clone sgs2c.pk001.n19.

SEQ ID NO:55 is the nucleotide sequence comprising the cDNA insert in sde4c.pk002.d4 encoding a soybean type I GST.

SEQ ID NO:56 is the deduced amino acid sequence of the nucleotide sequence comprising the cDNA insert in clone sde4c.pk002.d4.

The transformed E. coli srl.pk0011.d6/pET30(LIC)BL21(DE3) comprising the E. coli host BL21(DE3), containing the gene srl.pk0011.d6 in a pET30(LIC) vector encoding a soybean type III GST was deposited on 21 August 1997 with the American Type Culture Collection (ATCC), 10801 University Boulevard, Manassas, VA 20110-2209 U.S.A. under the terms of the Budapest Treaty on the International Recognition of the Deposit of Microorganisms for the Purpose of Patent Procedure. The deposit is designated as ATCC 98512.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

The present invention provides novel GST nucleotide sequences and encoded proteins isolated from soybean. GST enzymes are known to function in the process of detoxification of a variety of xenobiotic compounds in plants, most notably, herbicides. Nucleic acid fragments encoding at least a portion of several soybean GST enzymes have been isolated and identified by comparison of random plant cDNA sequences to public databases containing nucleotide and protein sequences using the BLAST algorithms well known to those skilled in the art. The sequences of the present invention are useful in the construction of herbicide-tolerant transgenic plants, in the recombinant production of GST enzymes, in the development of screening assays to identify compounds inhibitory

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to the GST enzymes, and in screening assays to identify chemical substrates of the GSTs.

In the context of this disclosure, a number of terms shall be utilized.

"Glutathione S-Transferase" or "GST" refers to any plant-derived glutathione S-transferase (GST) enzyme capable of catalyzing the conjugation of glutathione, homoglutathione and other glutathione-like analogs via a sulfhydryl group to hydrophobic and electrophilic compounds. The term "GST" includes amino acid sequences longer or shorter than the length of natural GSTs, such as functional hybrid or partial fragments of GSTs, or their analogues. "GST" is not intended to be limited in scope on the basis of enzyme activity and may encompass amino acid sequences that possess no measurable enzyme activity but are substantially similar to those sequences known in the art to possess the abovementioned glutathione conjugating activity.

The term "class" or "GST class" refers to a grouping of the various GST enzymes according to amino acid identity. Currently, four classes have been identified and are referred to as "GST class I" "GST class II", "GST class III" and "GST class IV". The grouping of plant GSTs into three classes is described by Droog et al. (*Plant Physiology* 107:1139-1146 (1995)). All available amino acid sequences were aligned using the Wisconsin Genetics Computer Group package (Wisconsin Package Version 9.0, Genetics Computer Group (GCG), Madison, WI), and graphically represented on a phylogenetic tree. Three groups were identified: class one including the archetypical sequences from maize GST I (X06755) and GST III (X04375); class two including the archetypical sequence from *Dianthus caryophyllus* (M64628); and class three including the archetypical sequence soybean GH2/4 (M20363). Recently, Applicants have established a further subgroup of the plant GSTs known as class IV GSTs with its archetypical sequence being In2-1 (X58573).

As used herein, an "isolated nucleic acid fragment" is a polymer of RNA or DNA that is single- or double-stranded, optionally containing synthetic, non-natural or altered nucleotide bases. An isolated nucleic acid fragment in the form of a polymer of DNA may be comprised of one or more segments of cDNA, genomic DNA or synthetic DNA.

As used herein, "substantially similar" refers to nucleic acid fragments wherein changes in one or more nucleotide bases result in substitution of one or more amino acids, but do not affect the functional properties of the protein encoded by the DNA sequence. "Substantially similar" also refers to nucleic acid fragments wherein changes in one or more nucleotide bases do not affect the ability of the nucleic acid fragment to mediate alteration of gene expression by

antisense or co-suppression technology. "Substantially similar" also refers to modifications of the nucleic acid fragments of the instant invention such as deletion or insertion of one or more nucleotide bases that do not substantially affect the functional properties of the resulting transcript vis-à-vis the ability to mediate alteration of gene expression by antisense or co-suppression technology or alteration of the functional properties of the resulting protein molecule. It is therefore understood that the invention encompasses more than the specific exemplary sequences.

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For example, it is well known in the art that antisense suppression and cosuppression of gene expression may be accomplished using nucleic acid fragments representing less that the entire coding region of a gene, and by nucleic acid fragments that do not share 100% identity with the gene to be suppressed. Moreover, alterations in a gene which result in the production of a chemically equivalent amino acid at a given site, but do not effect the functional properties of the encoded protein, are well known in the art. Thus, a codon for the amino acid alanine, a hydrophobic amino acid, may be substituted by a codon encoding another less hydrophobic residue (such as glycine) or a more hydrophobic residue (such as valine, leucine, or isoleucine). Similarly, changes which result in substitution of one negatively charged residue for another (such as aspartic acid for glutamic acid) or one positively charged residue for another (such as lysine for arginine) can also be expected to produce a functionally equivalent product. Nucleotide changes which result in alteration of the N-terminal and C-terminal portions of the protein molecule would also not be expected to alter the activity of the protein. Each of the proposed modifications is well within the routine skill in the art, as is determination of retention of biological activity of the encoded products. Moreover, the skilled artisan recognizes that substantially similar sequences encompassed by this invention are also defined by their ability to hybridize, under stringent conditions (0.1X SSC, 0.1% SDS, 65 °C), with the sequences exemplified herein. Preferred substantially similar nucleic acid fragments of the instant invention are those nucleic acid fragments whose DNA sequences are at least 80% identical to the DNA sequence of the nucleic acid fragments reported herein. More preferred nucleic acid fragments are at least 90% identical to the identical to the DNA sequence of the nucleic acid fragments reported herein. Most preferred are nucleic acid fragments that are at least 95% identical to the DNA sequence of the nucleic acid fragments reported herein.

A nucleic acid molecule is "hybridizable" to another nucleic acid molecule, such as a cDNA, genomic DNA, or RNA, when a single stranded form of the nucleic acid molecule can anneal to the other nucleic acid molecule



under the appropriate conditions of temperature and solution ionic strength. Hybridization and washing conditions are well known and exemplified in Sambrook, J., Fritsch, E. F. and Maniatis, T. Molecular Cloning: A Laboratory Manual, Second Edition, Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory Press, Cold Spring Harbor (1989), particularly Chapter 11 and Table 11.1 therein 5 (entirely incorporated herein by reference). The conditions of temperature and ionic strength determine the "stringency" of the hybridization. For preliminary screening for homologous nucleic acids, low stringency hybridization conditions, corresponding to a Tm of 550, can be used, e.g., 5X SSC, 0.1% SDS, 0.25% milk, and no formamide; or 30% formamide, 5X SSC, 0.5% SDS. 10 Moderate stringency hybridization conditions correspond to a higher T_m , e.g., 40% formamide, with 5X or 6X SSC. Hybridization requires that the two nucleic acids contain complementary sequences, although depending on the stringency of the hybridization, mismatches between bases are possible. The appropriate stringency for hybridizing nucleic acids depends on the length of the 15 nucleic acids and the degree of complementation, variables well known in the art. The greater the degree of similarity or homology between two nucleotide sequences, the greater the value of T_m for hybrids of nucleic acids having those sequences. The relative stability (corresponding to higher T_m) of nucleic acid hybridizations decreases in the following order: RNA:RNA, DNA:RNA, 20 DNA:DNA. For hybrids of greater than 100 nucleotides in length, equations for calculating T_m have been derived (see Sambrook et al., supra, 9.50-9.51). For hybridizations with shorter nucleic acids, i.e., oligonucleotides, the position of mismatches becomes more important, and the length of the oligonucleotide determines its specificity (see Sambrook et al., supra, 11.7-11.8). In one 25 embodiment the length for a hybridizable nucleic acid is at least about 10 nucleotides. Preferable a minimum length for a hybridizable nucleic acid is at least about 15 nucleotides; more preferably at least about 20 nucleotides; and most preferably the length is at least 30 nucleotides. Furthermore, the skilled artisan will recognize that the temperature and wash solution salt concentration 30 may be adjusted as necessary according to factors such as length of the probe.

A "substantial portion" of an amino acid or nucleotide sequence comprising enough of the amino acid sequence of a polypeptide or the nucleotide sequence of a gene to putatively identify that polypeptide or gene, either by manual evaluation of the sequence by one skilled in the art, or by computer-automated sequence comparison and identification using algorithms such as BLAST (Basic Local Alignment Search Tool; Altschul, S. F., et al., (1993) J. Mol. Biol. 215:403-410; see also www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/BLAST/). In



general, a sequence of ten or more contiguous amino acids or thirty or more nucleotides is necessary in order to putatively identify a polypeptide or nucleic acid sequence as homologous to a known protein or gene. Moreover, with respect to nucleotide sequences, gene specific oligonucleotide probes comprising 20-30 contiguous nucleotides may be used in sequence-dependent methods of gene identification (e.g., Southern hybridization) and isolation (e.g., in situ hybridization of bacterial colonies or bacteriophage plaques). In addition, short oligonucleotides of 12-15 bases may be used as amplification primers in PCR in order to obtain a particular nucleic acid fragment comprising the primers. Accordingly, a "substantial portion" of a nucleotide sequence comprises enough 10 of the sequence to specifically identify and/or isolate a nucleic acid fragment comprising the sequence. The instant specification teaches partial or complete amino acid and nucleotide sequences encoding one or more particular fungal proteins. The skilled artisan, having the benefit of the sequences as reported herein, may now use all or a substantial portion of the disclosed sequences for 15 purposes known to those skilled in this art. Accordingly, the instant invention

comprises the complete sequences as reported in the accompanying Sequence Listing, as well as substantial portions of those sequences as defined above.

The term "percent identity", as known in the art, is a relationship between two or more polypeptide sequences or two or more polynucleotide sequences, as determined 20 by comparing the sequences. In the art, "identity" also means the degree of sequence relatedness between polypeptide or polynucleotide sequences, as the case may be, as determined by the match between strings of such sequences. "Identity" and "similarity" can be readily calculated by known methods, including but not limited to those described in: Computational Molecular Biology (Lesk, A. M., ed.) Oxford 25 University Press, New York (1988); Biocomputing: Informatics and Genome Projects (Smith, D. W., ed.) Academic Press, New York (1993); Computer Analysis of Sequence Data, Part I (Griffin, A. M., and Griffin, H. G., eds.) Humana Press, New Jersey (1994); Sequence Analysis in Molecular Biology (von Heinje, G., ed.) Academic Press (1987); and Sequence Analysis Primer (Gribskov, M. and Devereux, J., eds.) 30 Stockton Press, New York (1991). Preferred methods to determine identity are designed to give the largest match between the sequences tested. Methods to determine identity and similarity are codified in publicly available computer programs. Preferred computer program methods to determine identity and similarity between two sequences include, but are not limited to, the GCG Pileup program found in the GCG program 35 package, as used in the instant invention, using the Needleman and Wunsch algorithm with their standard default values of gap creation penalty = 12 and gap extension penalty = 4 (Devereux et al., Nucleic Acids Res. 12:387-395 (1984)), BLASTP,

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BLASTN, and FASTA (Pearson et al., Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. U.S.A. 85:2444-2448 (1988). The BLAST X program is publicly available from NCBI and other sources (BLAST Manual, Altschul et al., Natl. Cent. Biotechnol. Inf., Natl. Library Med. (NCBI NLM) NIH, Bethesda, Md. 20894; Altschul et al., J. Mol. Biol. 215:403-410 (1990)). Another preferred method to determine percent identity, is by the method of DNASTAR protein alignment protocol using the Jotun-Hein algorithm (Hein et al., Methods Enzymol. 183:626-645 (1990)). Default parameters for the Jotun-Hein method for alignments are: for multiple alignments, gap penalty=11, gap length penalty=3; for pairwise alignments ktuple=6. As an illustration, by a polynucleotide having a nucleotide sequence having at least, for example, 95% "identity" to a reference nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:1 it is intended that the nucleotide sequence of the polynucleotide is identical to the reference sequence except that the polynucleotide sequence may include up to five point mutations per each 100 nucleotides of the reference nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:1. In other words, to obtain a polynucleotide having a nucleotide sequence at least 95% identical to a reference nucleotide sequence, up to 5% of the nucleotides in the reference sequence may be deleted or substituted with another nucleotide, or a number of nucleotides up to 5% of the total nucleotides in the reference sequence may be inserted into the reference sequence. These mutations of the reference sequence may occur at the 5' or 3' terminal positions of the reference nucleotide sequence or anywhere between those terminal positions, interspersed either individually among nucleotides in the reference sequence or in one or more contiguous groups within the reference sequence. Analogously, by a polypeptide having an amino acid sequence having at least, for example, 95% identity to a reference amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2 is intended that the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide is identical to the reference sequence except that the polypeptide sequence may include up to five amino acid alterations per each 100 amino acids of the reference amino acid of SEQ ID NO:2. In other words, to obtain a polypeptide having an amino acid sequence at least 95% identical to a reference amino acid sequence, up to 5% of the amino acid residues in the reference sequence may be deleted or substituted with another amino acid, or a number of amino acids up to 5% of the total amino acid residues in the reference sequence may be inserted into the reference sequence. These alterations of the reference sequence may occur at the amino or carboxy terminal positions of the reference amino acid sequence or anywhere between those terminal positions, interspersed either individually among residues in the reference sequence or in one or more contiguous groups within the reference sequence.

The term "complementary" is used to describe the relationship between nucleotide bases that are capable to hybridizing to one another. For example, with respect to DNA, adenosine is complementary to thymine and cytosine is

complementary to guanine. Accordingly, the instant invention also includes isolated nucleic acid fragments that are complementary to the complete sequences as reported in the accompanying Sequence Listing as well as those substantially similar nucleic acid sequences.

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"Codon degeneracy" refers to divergence in the genetic code permitting variation of the nucleotide sequence without effecting the amino acid sequence of an encoded polypeptide. Accordingly, the instant invention relates to any nucleic acid fragment that encodes all or a substantial portion of the amino acid sequence encoding the GST enzymes as set forth in SEQ ID Nos: SEQ ID NO:2, SEQ ID NO:4, SEQ ID NO:6, SEQ ID NO:8, SEQ ID NO:10, SEQ ID NO:12, SEQ ID NO:14, SEQ ID NO:16, SEQ ID NO:18, SEQ ID NO:20, SEQ ID NO:22, SEQ ID NO:24, SEQ ID NO:26, SEQ ID NO:28, SEQ ID NO:34, SEQ ID NO:36, SEQ ID NO:38, SEQ ID NO:40, SEQ ID NO:42, SEQ ID NO:44, SEQ ID NO:46, SEQ ID NO:48, SEQ ID NO:50, SEQ ID NO:52, SEQ ID NO:54, and SEQ ID NO:56. The skilled artisan is well aware of the "codon-bias" exhibited by a specific host cell in usage of nucleotide codons to specify a given amino acid. Therefore, when synthesizing a gene for improved expression in a host cell, it is desirable to design

synthesizing a gene for improved expression in a host cell, it is desirable to design the gene such that its frequency of codon usage approaches the frequency of preferred codon usage of the host cell.

"Synthetic genes" can be assembled from oligonucleotide building blocks

"Synthetic genes" can be assembled from oligonucleotide building blocks that are chemically synthesized using procedures known to those skilled in the art. These building blocks are ligated and annealed to form gene segments which are then enzymatically assembled to construct the entire gene. "Chemically synthesized", as related to a sequence of DNA, means that the component nucleotides were assembled *in vitro*. Manual chemical synthesis of DNA may be accomplished using well established procedures, or automated chemical synthesis can be performed using one of a number of commercially available machines. Accordingly, the genes can be tailored for optimal gene expression based on optimization of nucleotide sequence to reflect the codon bias of the host cell. The skilled artisan appreciates the likelihood of successful gene expression if codon usage is biased towards those codons favored by the host. Determination of preferred codons can be based on a survey of genes derived from the host cell where sequence information is available.

"Gene" refers to a nucleic acid fragment that expresses a specific protein, including regulatory sequences preceding (5' non-coding sequences) and following (3' non-coding sequences) the coding sequence. "Native gene" refers to a gene as found in nature with its own regulatory sequences. "Chimeric gene" refers to any gene that is not a native gene, comprising regulatory and coding

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sequences that are not found together in nature. Accordingly, a chimeric gene may comprise regulatory sequences and coding sequences that are derived from different sources, or regulatory sequences and coding sequences derived from the same source, but arranged in a manner different than that found in nature. "Endogenous gene" refers to a native gene in its natural location in the genome of an organism. A "foreign" gene refers to a gene not normally found in the host organism, but that is introduced into the host organism by gene transfer. Foreign genes can comprise native genes inserted into a non-native organism, or chimeric genes. A "transgene" is a gene that has been introduced into the genome by a transformation procedure.

"Coding sequence" refers to a DNA sequence that codes for a specific amino acid sequence. "Suitable regulatory sequences" refer to nucleotide sequences located upstream (5' non-coding sequences), within, or downstream (3' non-coding sequences) of a coding sequence, and which influence the transcription, RNA processing or stability, or translation of the associated coding sequence. Regulatory sequences may include promoters, translation leader sequences, introns, and polyadenylation recognition sequences.

"Promoter" refers to a DNA sequence capable of controlling the expression of a coding sequence or functional RNA. In general, a coding sequence is located 3' to a promoter sequence. The promoter sequence consists of proximal and more distal upstream elements, the latter elements often referred to as enhancers. Accordingly, an "enhancer" is a DNA sequence which can stimulate promoter activity and may be an innate element of the promoter or a heterologous element inserted to enhance the level or tissue-specificity of a promoter. Promoters may be derived in their entirety from a native gene, or be composed of different elements derived from different promoters found in nature, or even comprise synthetic DNA segments. It is understood by those skilled in the art that different promoters may direct the expression of a gene in different tissues or cell types, or at different stages of development, or in response to different environmental conditions. Promoters which cause a gene to be expressed in most cell types at most times are commonly referred to as "constitutive promoters". New promoters of various types useful in plant cells are constantly being discovered; numerous examples may be found in the compilation by Okamuro and Goldberg, (1989) Biochemistry of Plants 15:1-82. It is further recognized that since in most cases the exact boundaries of regulatory sequences have not been completely defined, DNA fragments of different lengths may have identical promoter activity.

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The "translation leader sequence" refers to a DNA sequence located between the promoter sequence of a gene and the coding sequence. The translation leader sequence is present in the fully processed mRNA upstream of the translation start sequence. The translation leader sequence may affect processing of the primary transcript to mRNA, mRNA stability or translation efficiency. Examples of translation leader sequences have been described (Turner, R. and Foster, G. D. (1995) *Molecular Biotechnology* 3:225).

The "3' non-coding sequences" refer to DNA sequences located downstream of a coding sequence and include polyadenylation recognition sequences and other sequences encoding regulatory signals capable of affecting mRNA processing or gene expression. The polyadenylation signal is usually characterized by affecting the addition of polyadenylic acid tracts to the 3' end of the mRNA precursor. The use of different 3' non-coding sequences is exemplified by Ingelbrecht et al. ((1989) *Plant Cell 1*:671-680).

"RNA transcript" refers to the product resulting from RNA polymerasecatalyzed transcription of a DNA sequence. When the RNA transcript is a perfect complementary copy of the DNA sequence, it is referred to as the primary transcript or it may be a RNA sequence derived from posttranscriptional processing of the primary transcript and is referred to as the mature RNA. "Messenger RNA (mRNA)" refers to the RNA that is without introns and that can be translated into protein by the cell. "cDNA" refers to a double-stranded DNA that is complementary to and derived from mRNA. "Sense" RNA refers to RNA transcript that includes the mRNA and so can be translated into protein by the cell. "Antisense RNA" refers to a RNA transcript that is complementary to all or part of a target primary transcript or mRNA and that blocks the expression of a target gene (U.S. Patent No. 5,107,065). The complementarity of an antisense RNA may be with any part of the specific gene transcript, i.e., at the 5' non-coding sequence, 3' non-coding sequence, introns, or the coding sequence. "Functional RNA" refers to antisense RNA, ribozyme RNA, or other RNA that is not translated yet has an effect on cellular processes.

The term "operably linked" refers to the association of nucleic acid sequences on a single nucleic acid fragment so that the function of one is affected by the other. For example, a promoter is operably linked with a coding sequence when it is capable of affecting the expression of that coding sequence (i.e., that the coding sequence is under the transcriptional control of the promoter). Coding sequences can be operably linked to regulatory sequences in sense or antisense orientation.

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The term "expression", as used herein, refers to the transcription and stable accumulation of sense (mRNA) or antisense RNA derived from the nucleic acid fragment of the invention. Expression may also refer to translation of mRNA into a polypeptide. "Antisense inhibition" refers to the production of antisense RNA transcripts capable of suppressing the expression of the target protein. "Overexpression" refers to the production of a gene product in transgenic organisms that exceeds levels of production in normal or non-transformed organisms. "Co-suppression" refers to the production of sense RNA transcripts capable of suppressing the expression of identical or substantially similar foreign or endogenous genes (U.S. Patent No. 5,231,020).

"Altered levels" refers to the production of gene product(s) in transgenic organisms in amounts or proportions that differ from that of normal or non-transformed organisms.

"Mature" protein refers to a post-translationally processed polypeptide; i.e., one from which any pre- or propeptides present in the primary translation product have been removed. "Precursor" protein refers to the primary product of translation of mRNA; i.e., with pre- and propeptides still present. Pre- and propeptides may be but are not limited to intracellular localization signals.

A "chloroplast transit peptide" is an amino acid sequence which is translated in conjunction with a protein and directs the protein to the chloroplast or other plastid types present in the cell in which the protein is made. "Chloroplast transit sequence" refers to a nucleotide sequence that encodes a chloroplast transit peptide. A "signal peptide" is an amino acid sequence which is translated in conjunction with a protein and directs the protein to the secretory system (Chrispeels, J. J., (1991) Ann. Rev. Plant Phys. Plant Mol. Biol. 42:21-53). If the protein is to be directed to a vacuole, a vacuolar targeting signal (supra) can further be added, or if to the endoplasmic reticulum, an endoplasmic reticulum retention signal (supra) may be added. If the protein is to be directed to the nucleus, any signal peptide present should be removed and instead a nuclear localization signal included (Raikhel (1992) Plant Phys. 100:1627-1632).

"Transformation" refers to the transfer of a nucleic acid fragment into the genome of a host organism, resulting in genetically stable inheritance. Host organisms containing the transformed nucleic acid fragments are referred to as "transgenic" organisms. Examples of methods of plant transformation include Agrobacterium-mediated transformation (De Blaere et al. (1987) *Meth. Enzymol.* 143:277) and particle-accelerated or "gene gun" transformation technology (Klein et al. (1987) *Nature (London) 327:*70-73; U.S. Patent No. 4,945,050).

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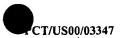
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The term "herbicide-tolerant plant" as used herein is defined as a plant that survives and preferably grows normally at a usually effective dose of a herbicide. Herbicide tolerance in plants according to the present invention refers to detoxification mechanisms in a plant, although the herbicide binding or target site is still sensitive.

"Thiol donor" refers to a compound that contains the structure RSH (where R is not equal to H). Within the context of the present invention suitable thiol donors may include, but are not limited to, Glutathione and homoglutathione.

"Electrophilic substrate" refers to a compound that is amenable to conjugation with glutathione or homoglutathione via a sulfhydryl group. Electrophilic substrates include a wide variety of compounds including pesticides, anti-pathogenic compounds such as fungicides and profungicides, pheramones, and herbicides. Within the context of the present invention electrophilic substrates with herbicidal activity may include, but are not limited to, chlorimuronethyl, alachlor, and atrazine, 1-chloro-2,4-dinitrobenzene (CDNB), ethacrynic acid, t-stilbene oxide, and 1,2-epoxy-3-(p-nitrophenoxy)propane.

Standard recombinant DNA and molecular cloning techniques used herein are well known in the art and are described more fully in Sambrook, J., Fritsch, E. F. and Maniatis, T. *Molecular Cloning: A Laboratory Manual*; Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory Press: Cold Spring Harbor, 1989 (hereinafter "Maniatis").

The nucleic acid fragments of the instant invention may be used to isolate cDNAs and genes encoding homologous enzymes from the same or other plant species. Isolation of homologous genes using sequence-dependent protocols is well known in the art. Examples of sequence-dependent protocols include, but are not limited to, methods of nucleic acid hybridization, and methods of DNA and RNA amplification as exemplified by various uses of nucleic acid amplification technologies (e.g., polymerase chain reaction, ligase chain reaction).

For example, genes encoding other GST enzymes, either as cDNAs or genomic DNAs, could be isolated directly by using all or a portion of the instant nucleic acid fragments as DNA hybridization probes to screen libraries from any desired plant using methodology well known to those skilled in the art. Specific oligonucleotide probes based upon the instant nucleic acid sequences can be designed and synthesized by methods known in the art (Maniatis). Moreover, the entire sequences can be used directly to synthesize DNA probes by methods known to the skilled artisan such as random primers DNA labeling, nick translation, or end-labeling techniques, or RNA probes using available *in vitro* transcription systems. In addition, specific primers can be designed and used to amplify a part of or full-length of the instant sequences. The resulting

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amplification products can be labeled directly during amplification reactions or labeled after amplification reactions, and used as probes to isolate full length cDNA or genomic fragments under conditions of appropriate stringency.

In addition, two short segments of the instant nucleic acid fragments may be used in polymerase chain reaction protocols to amplify longer nucleic acid fragments encoding homologous genes from DNA or RNA. The polymerase chain reaction may also be performed on a library of cloned nucleic acid fragments wherein the sequence of one primer is derived from the instant nucleic acid fragments, and the sequence of the other primer takes advantage of the presence of the polyadenylic acid tracts to the 3' end of the mRNA precursor encoding plant genes. Alternatively, the second primer sequence may be based upon sequences derived from the cloning vector. For example, the skilled artisan can follow the RACE protocol (Frohman et al., (1988) PNAS USA 85:8998) to generate cDNAs by using PCR to amplify copies of the region between a single point in the transcript and the 3' or 5' end. Primers oriented in the 3' and 5' directions can be designed from the instant sequences. Using commercially available 3' RACE or 5' RACE systems (BRL), specific 3' or 5' cDNA fragments can be isolated (Ohara et al., (1989) PNAS USA 86:5673; Loh et al., (1989) Science 243:217). Products generated by the 3' and 5' RACE procedures can be combined to generate full-length cDNAs (Frohman, M. A. and Martin, G. R., (1989) Techniques 1:165).

Availability of the instant nucleotide and deduced amino acid sequences facilitates immunological screening cDNA expression libraries. Synthetic peptides representing portions of the instant amino acid sequences may be synthesized. These peptides can be used to immunize animals to produce polyclonal or monoclonal antibodies with specificity for peptides or proteins comprising the amino acid sequences. These antibodies can be then be used to screen cDNA expression libraries to isolate full-length cDNA clones of interest (Lerner, R. A. (1984) Adv. Immunol. 36:1; Maniatis).

The nucleic acid fragments of the instant invention may be used to create transgenic plants in which the disclosed GST enzymes are present at higher or lower levels than normal or in cell types or developmental stages in which they are not normally found. This would have the effect of altering the level of GST enzyme available as well as the herbicide-tolerant phenotype of the plant.

Overexpression of the GST enzymes of the instant invention may be accomplished by first constructing chimeric genes in which the coding region are operably linked to promoters capable of directing expression of a gene in the desired tissues at the desired stage of development. For reasons of convenience,

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the chimeric genes may comprise promoter sequences and translation leader sequences derived from the same genes. 3' Non-coding sequences encoding transcription termination signals must also be provided. The instant chimeric genes may also comprise one or more introns in order to facilitate gene expression.

Any combination of any promoter and any terminator capable of inducing expression of a GST coding region may be used in the chimeric genetic sequence. Some suitable examples of promoters and terminators include those from nopaline synthase (nos), octopine synthase (ocs) and cauliflower mosaic virus (CaMV) genes. One type of efficient plant promoter that may be used is a high level plant promoter. Such promoters, in operable linkage with the genetic sequence for GST, should be capable of promoting expression of the GST such that the transformed plant is tolerant to an herbicide due to the presence of, or increased levels of, GST enzymatic activity. High level plant promoters that may be used in this invention include the promoter of the small subunit (ss) of the ribulose-1,5bisphosphate carboxylase from example from soybean (Berry-Lowe et al., J. Molecular and App. Gen., 1:483-498 1982)), and the promoter of the chlorophyll a/b binding protein. These two promoters are known to be lightinduced in plant cells (See, for example, Genetic Engineering of Plants. an Agricultural Perspective, A. Cashmore, Plenum, New York (1983), pages 29-38; Coruzzi, G. et al., The Journal of Biological Chemistry, 258:1399 (1983), and Dunsmuir, P. et al., Journal of Molecular and Applied Genetics, 2:285 (1983)).

Plasmid vectors comprising the instant chimeric genes can then constructed. The choice of plasmid vector depends upon the method that will be used to transform host plants. The skilled artisan is well aware of the genetic 25 elements that must be present on the plasmid vector in order to successfully transform, select and propagate host cells containing the chimeric gene. The skilled artisan will also recognize that different independent transformation events will result in different levels and patterns of expression (Jones et al., (1985) EMBO J. 4:2411-2418; De Almeida et al., (1989) Mol. Gen. Genetics 218:78-86), 30 and thus that multiple events must be screened in order to obtain lines displaying the desired expression level and pattern. Such screening may be accomplished by Southern analysis of DNA blots (Southern, J. Mol. Biol. 98, 503, (1975)). Northern analysis of mRNA expression (Kroczek, J. Chromatogr. Biomed. Appl., 618 (1-2) (1993) 133-145), Western analysis of protein expression, or phenotypic 35 analysis.

For some applications it will be useful to direct the instant GST enzymes to different cellular compartments or to facilitate enzyme secretion from a

recombinant host cell. It is thus envisioned that the chimeric genes described above may be further supplemented by altering the coding sequences to encode enzymes with appropriate intracellular targeting sequences such as transit sequences (Keegstra, K., Cell 56:247-253 (1989)), signal sequences or sequences encoding endoplasmic reticulum localization (Chrispeels, J. J., Ann. Rev. Plant Phys. Plant Mol. Biol. 42:21-53 (1991)), or nuclear localization signals (Raikhel, N. Plant Phys. 100:1627-1632 (1992)) added and/or with targeting sequences that are already present removed. While the references cited give examples of each of these, the list is not exhaustive and more targeting signals of utility may be discovered in the future that are useful in the invention.

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It may also be desirable to reduce or eliminate expression of the genes encoding the instant GST enzymes in plants. In order to accomplish this, chimeric genes designed for co-suppression of the instant GST enzymes can be constructed by linking the genes or gene fragments encoding the enzymes to plant promoter sequences. Alternatively, chimeric genes designed to express antisense RNA for all or part of the instant nucleic acid fragments can be constructed by linking the genes or gene fragment in reverse orientation to plant promoter sequences. Either the co-suppression or antisense chimeric genes could be introduced into plants via transformation wherein expression of the corresponding endogenous genes are reduced or eliminated.

Plants transformed with the present GST genes will have a variety of phenotypes corresponding to the various properties conveyed by the GST class of proteins. Glutathione conjugation catalyzed by GSTs are known to result in sequestration and detoxification of a number of herbicides and other xenobiotics (Marrs et al., Annu. Rev. Plant Physiol. Plant Mol. Biol. 47:127-58 (1996)) and thus will be expected to produce transgenic plants with this phenotype. Other GST proteins are known to be induced by various environmental stresses such as salt stress (Roxas, et al., Stress tolerance in transgenic seedlings that overexpress glutathione S-transferase, Annual Meeting of the American Society of Plant Physiologists, (August 1997), abstract 1574, Final Program, Plant Biology and Supplement to Plant Physiology, 301), exposure to ozone (Sharma et al., Plant Physiology, 105 (4) (1994) 1089-1096), and exposure to industrial pollutants such as sulfur dioxide (Navari-Izzo et al., Plant Science 96 (1-2) (1994) 31-40). It is contemplated that transgenic plants, tolerant to a wide variety of stresses, may be produced by the present method by expressing foreign GST genes in suitable plant hosts.

The instant GST enzymes produced in heterologous host cells, particularly in the cells of microbial hosts, can be used to prepare antibodies to the enzymes by

methods well known to those skilled in the art. The antibodies are useful for detecting the enzymes in situ in cells or in vitro in cell extracts. Preferred heterologous host cells for production of the instant GST enzymes are microbial hosts. Microbial expression systems and expression vectors containing regulatory sequences that direct high level expression of foreign proteins are well known to those skilled in the art. Any of these could be used to construct chimeric genes for production of the instant GST enzymes. These chimeric genes could then be introduced into appropriate microorganisms via transformation to provide high level expression of the enzymes.

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Vectors or cassettes useful for the transformation of suitable host cells are well known in the art. Typically, the vector or cassette contains sequences directing transcription and translation of the relevant gene, a selectable marker, and sequences allowing autonomous replication or chromosomal integration. Suitable vectors comprise a region 5' of the gene which harbors transcriptional initiation controls and a region 3' of the DNA fragment which controls transcriptional termination. It is most preferred when both control regions are derived from genes homologous to the transformed host cell, although it is to be understood that such control regions need not be derived from the genes native to the specific species chosen as a production host.

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Initiation control regions or promoters, which are useful to drive expression of the genes encoding the GST enzymes in the desired host cell, are numerous and familiar to those skilled in the art. Virtually any promoter capable of driving these genes is suitable for the present invention including but not limited to CYC1, HIS3, GAL1, GAL10, ADH1, PGK, PHO5, GAPDH, ADC1, TRP1, URA3, LEU2, ENO, TPI (useful for expression in *Saccharomyces*); AOX1 (useful for expression in *Pichia*); and lac, trp, λP_L, λP_R, T7, tac, and trc (useful for expression in *E. coli*).

Termination control regions may also be derived from various genes native to the preferred hosts. Optionally, a termination site may be unnecessary, however, it is most preferred if included.

An example of a vector for high level expression of the instant GST enzymes in a bacterial host is provided (Example 5).

Additionally, the instant soybean GST enzymes can be used as a targets to facilitate design and/or identification of inhibitors of the enzymes that may be useful as herbicides or herbicide synergists. This is desirable because the enzymes described herein catalyze the sulfhydryl conjugation of glutathione to compounds toxic to the plant. Conjugation can result in detoxification of these compounds. It is likely that inhibition of the detoxification process will result in inhibition of

plant growth or plant death. Thus, the instant soybean GST enzymes could be appropriate for new herbicide or herbicide synergist discovery and design.

All or a portion of the nucleic acid fragments of the instant invention may also be used as probes for genetically and physically mapping the genes that they are a part of, and as markers for traits linked to expression of the instant enzymes. Such information may be useful in plant breeding in order to develop lines with desired phenotypes or in the identification of mutants.

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For example, the instant nucleic acid fragments may be used as restriction fragment length polymorphism (RFLP) markers. Southern blots (Maniatis) of restriction-digested plant genomic DNA may be probed with the nucleic acid fragments of the instant invention. The resulting banding patterns may then be subjected to genetic analyses using computer programs such as MapMaker (Lander et at., *Genomics 1*:174-181 (1987)) in order to construct a genetic map. In addition, the nucleic acid fragments of the instant invention may be used to probe Southern blots containing restriction endonuclease-treated genomic DNAs of a set of individuals representing parent and progeny of a defined genetic cross. Segregation of the DNA polymorphisms is noted and used to calculate the position of the instant nucleic acid sequence in the genetic map previously obtained using this population (Botstein et al., (1980) *Am. J. Hum. Genet.* 32:314-331).

The production and use of plant gene-derived probes for use in genetic mapping are described by Bernatzky, R. and Tanksley, S.D. (*Plant Mol. Biol. Reporter 4(1):37-41* (1986)). Numerous publications describe genetic mapping of specific cDNA clones using the methodology outlined above or variations thereof. For example, F2 intercross populations, backcross populations, randomly mated populations, near isogenic lines, and other sets of individuals may be used for mapping. Such methodologies are well known to those skilled in the art.

Nucleic acid probes derived from the instant nucleic acid sequences may also be used for physical mapping (i.e., placement of sequences on physical maps; see Hoheisel et al., In: Nonmammalian Genomic Analysis: A Practical Guide, Academic press, pp. 319-346 (1996), and references cited therein).

In another embodiment, nucleic acid probes derived from the instant nucleic acid sequences may be used in direct fluorescence in situ hybridization (FISH) mapping. Although current methods of FISH mapping favor use of large clones (several to several hundred KB), improvements in sensitivity may allow performance of FISH mapping using shorter probes.

A variety of nucleic acid amplification-based methods of genetic and physical mapping may be carried out using the instant nucleic acid sequences.

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Examples include allele-specific amplification, polymorphism of PCR-amplified fragments (CAPS), allele-specific ligation, nucleotide extension reactions, Radiation Hybrid Mapping and Happy Mapping. For these methods, the sequence of a nucleic acid fragment is used to design and produce primer pairs for use in the amplification reaction or in primer extension reactions. The design of such primers is well known to those skilled in the art. In methods employing PCR-based genetic mapping, it may be necessary to identify DNA sequence differences between the parents of the mapping cross in the region corresponding to the instant nucleic acid sequence. This, however, this is generally not necessary for mapping methods. Such information may be useful in plant breeding in order to develop lines with desired starch phenotypes.

EXAMPLES

The present invention is further defined in the following Examples, in which all parts and percentages are by weight and degrees are Celsius, unless otherwise stated. It should be understood that these Examples, while indicating preferred embodiments of the invention, are given by way of illustration only. From the above discussion and these Examples, one skilled in the art can ascertain the essential characteristics of this invention, and without departing from the spirit and scope thereof, can make various changes and modifications of the invention to adapt it to various usages and conditions.

GENERAL METHODS

Standard recombinant DNA and molecular cloning techniques used in the Examples are well known in the art and are described by Sambrook, J., Fritsch, E. F. and Maniatis, T. *Molecular Cloning: A Laboratory Manual*; Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory Press: Cold Spring Harbor, (1989) (Maniatis) and by T. J. Silhavy, M. L. Bennan, and L. W. Enquist, Experiments with Gene Fusions, Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory, Cold Spring Harbor, N.Y. (1984) and by Ausubel, F. M. et al., Current Protocols in Molecular Biology, pub. by Greene Publishing Assoc. and Wiley-Interscience (1987).

EXAMPLE 1

Composition of cDNA Libraries; Isolation and Sequencing of cDNA Clones cDNA libraries representing mRNAs from various soybean tissues were prepared. The characteristics of the libraries are described in Table 1.



TABLE 1
cDNA Libraries From Soybean Tissues

		CDIVA LIDIALIES	Tioni doyocan Tissues
	GST	CI.	Tissue
Library	Class	Clone	
se1	I 	se1.27b04	Soybean embryo
ssm	II	ssm.pk0026.g11	soybean shoot meristem
NA	III	GSTa .	NA
se3	III	se3.03b09	Soybean embryo
se6	III	se6.pk0037.h4	Soybean embryo
se6	Ш	se6.pk0048.d7	Soybean embryo
ses8w	III	ses8w.pk0028.c6	mature embryo 8 weeks after subculture
sr1	III	sr1.pk0011.d6	Soybean root library
ssl	III	ssl.pk0002.f7	soybean seedling 5-10 day
ssl	III	ssl.pk0005.e6	soybean seedling 5-10 day
ssl	III	ssl.pk0014.a1	soybean seedling 5-10 day
ssl	III	ssl.pk0020.b10	soybean seedling 5-10 day
ssm	III	ssm.pk0067.g5	soybean shoot meristem
se1	IV	se1.pk0017.f5	Soybean embryo
sfl1	gst I	sfl1.pk126.i6	Soybean (Glycine max L.) immature flower
sde4c	gst I	sde4c.pk002.d4	Soybean (Glycine max L.) developing embryo (9-11 mm)
sdp2c	gst I	sdp2c.pk002.116	Soybean (Glycine max L.) developing pods 6-7 mm
sisic	gst I	sls1c.pk003.f24	Soybean (Glycine max L., S1990) infected with Sclerotinia sclerotiorum mycelium
sI2	gst III	sl2.pk0010.e2	Soybean (Glycine max L.) two week old developing seedlings treated with 2.5 ppm chlorimuron
sgs2c	gst III	sgs2c.pk001.n19	Soybean (Glycine max L.) seeds 14 hrs after germination
sfl1	gst III	sfl1.pk127.o7	Soybean (Glycine max L.) immature flower
srr3c	gst III	srr3c.pk001.a17	Soybean (Glycine max L., Bell) roots
sgs1c	gst III	sgs1c.pk001.c16	Soybean (Glycine max L.) seeds 4 hrs after germination
sls2c	gst III	sls2c.pk002.d9	Soybean (Glycine max L., Manta) infected with Sclerotinia sclerotiorum mycelium

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Library	GST Class	Clone	Tissue
sisic	gst III	sls1c.pk007.j17	Soybean (Glycine max L., S1990) infected with Sclerotinia sclerotiorum mycelium
src3c	gst III	src3c.pk026.e6	Soybean (Glycine max L., Bell) 8 day old root inoculated with eggs of Cyst Nematode (Race14) for 4 days

cDNA Library Preparation

For clones other than GSTa, cDNA libraries were prepared in Uni-ZAPTM XR vectors according to the manufacturer's protocol (Stratagene Cloning Systems, La Jolla, CA). The Uni-ZAPTM XR libraries were converted into plasmid libraries according to the protocol provided by Stratagene. Upon conversion, cDNA inserts were contained in the plasmid vector pBluescript. cDNA inserts from randomly picked bacterial colonies containing recombinant pBluescript plasmids were amplified via polymerase chain reaction using primers specific for vector sequences flanking the inserted cDNA sequences. Amplified insert DNAs were sequenced in dye-primer sequencing reactions to generate partial cDNA sequences (expressed sequence tags or "ESTs"; see Adams, M. D. et al., Science 252:1651 (1991)). The resulting ESTs were analyzed using a Perkin Elmer Model 377 fluorescent sequencer.

Cloning of GSTa

The GSTa clone was isolated and cloned using primers derived from a published GST sequence, GH2/4 (Flurry et al., *Physiologia Plantarum* 94 (1995) 594-604) according to the following protocol.

Soybeans (cv Williams 82) were germinated in vermiculite in a controlled growth room at 23 °C with 14-h light/10-h dark cycle at 330 μE m⁻² s⁻¹. One week old seedlings were treated with 1 mM 2,4-D for 24 h before harvest. Seedlings were frozen in liquid nitrogen and ground with a mortar and pestle and RNA was prepared using TriZol reagent (Life Technologies Bethesda, MD). Approximately 1.5 μg of total RNA was reverse transcribed using the GeneAmp Kit (Perkin Elmer, Branchburg, NJ) and oligo dT primer. The resulting first strand cDNA was used as a template for PCR amplification with AmpliTaq (Perkin Elmer) and the following primers: primer 1: (GAY GAR GAN CTN CTN GAY TTY TGG) (SEQ ID NO:29) and primer 2: (GAC TCG AGT CGA CAT GCT T₁₆) (SEQ ID NO:30). Primer 1 and primer 3 (see below) were designed based on N-terminal protein sequence previously described (Flury et al., 1995, supra). A Perkin-Elmer Thermal Cycle was

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allowed to cycle at 95 °C for 30 sec, 52 °C for 30 sec and 72 °C for 30 sec for 30 cycles. The resulting PCR product was cloned in pCR2.1 (Invitrogen, San Diego, CA) according to the manufacturer's instructions, named pBD16 and sequenced using an ABI sequencer. Primer 1 was designed to take advantage of the lack of degeneracy for encoding tryptophan. Because of this, the clone did not include the entire coding region and a second round of PCR was performed using the following primers: Primer 3: CAT ATG AGT GAT GAG GTA GTG TTA TTA GAT TTC TGG (SEQ ID NO:31) and Primer 4: TTA TTA CAC AAA TAT TAC TTA TTT GAA AGG CTA A (SEQ ID NO:32) and using .002 μg of linearized pBD16 as a template. Again, the resulting PCR product was cloned into pCR2.1 and named pBD17 and sequenced using an ABI sequencer. Additional gene specific primers were made and used to determine the complete sequence. All regions were sequenced at least two times in both directions. The nucleotide sequence and encoded protein sequence are shown in SEQ ID NO:5 and SEQ ID NO:6, respectively.

EXAMPLE 2

Identification and Characterization of cDNA Clones

cDNAs encoding soybean GST enzymes were identified by conducting BLAST (Basic Local Alignment Search Tool; Altschul, S. F., et al., (1993) J. Mol. Biol. 215:403-410; see also www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/BLAST/) searches for similarity to sequences contained in the BLAST "nr" database (comprising all non-redundant GenBank CDS translations, sequences derived from the 3-dimensional structure Brookhaven Protein Data Bank, the SWISS-PROT protein sequence database, EMBL, and DDBJ databases). The cDNA sequences obtained in Example 1 were analyzed for similarity to all publicly available DNA sequences contained in the "nr" database using the BLASTN algorithm provided by the National Center for Biotechnology Information (NCBI). The DNA sequences were translated in all reading frames and compared for similarity to all publicly available protein sequences contained in the "nr" database using the BLASTX algorithm (Gish, W. and States, D. J. (1993) Nature Genetics 3:266-272) provided by the NCBI. For convenience, the P-value (probability) of observing a match of a cDNA sequence to a sequence contained in the searched databases merely by chance as calculated by BLAST are reported herein as "pLog" values, which represent the negative of the logarithm of the reported P-value. Accordingly, the greater the pLog value, the greater the likelihood that the cDNA sequence and the BLAST "hit" represent homologous proteins.

All comparisons were done using either the BLASTNnr or BLASTXnr algorithm. The results of the BLAST comparison is given in Table 2 which

summarize the clones and the sequences to which they have the most similarity. Table 2 displays data based on the BLASTNnr or BLASTXnr algorithm with values reported in pLogs or expect values. The Expect value estimates the statistical significance of the match, specifying the number of matches, with a given score, that are expected in a search of a database of this size absolutely by chance.

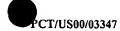
Each cDNA identified encodes at least a portion of either a GST Class I, II, III, or IV.

Example 5 describes the strategy for sequencing the above described 10 clones.



TABLE 2
BLAST Results For Clones

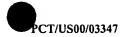
			וונטיות	DEAD I NESURE FOI CIVILES	CIOICS		
			SEQ I	SEQ ID NO.			
Clone	GST	Similarity Identified	Base	Peptide	Blast Algorithm	pLog Score*/E-Value**	Citation
se1.27b04	1	X06754 ZMGST1 Maize mRNA for GSH eluthathione S-transferase I	-	2	Nnr	41.35	
ssm.pk0026.g11	11	[X58390]DCCARSR8 D.caryophyllus CARSR8 mRNA for glutathione s-transferase	æ	4	Nnr	85.02	
GSTa	prod prod brod	Y 10820 GMGLUTTR G.max mRNA for glutathione transferase	۶	9	Nnr	257.95	
se3.03b09	H	M20363 SOYHSP Soybean heat-shock protein (Gmhsp26-A) gene	7	∞	Nnr	28.72	
se6.pk0037.h4	Ħ	M20363 SOYHSP Soybean heat-shock protein (Gmhsp26-A) gene, complete cds	6	10	Z	247.44	
se6.pk0048.d7	111	Y 10820 GMGLUTTR G.max mRNA for glutathione transferase	=	12	Nnr	0.0	



			SEQ I	SEQ ID NO.				- 1
Clone	GST	Similarity Identified	Race	Pentide	Blast	pLog Score*(E-Value**	Citation	
ses8w.pk0028.c6	4	M20363 SOYHSP		14	Nnr	269.17		
		Soybean heat-shock protein (Gmhsp26-A) gene, complete cds.						
sr1.pk0011.d6	E	U20809JVRU20809 Vigna radiata clone MII-4 auxin-induced protein mRNA, partial cds	15	16	Nnr	229.82		
ssl.pk0002.f7	Ħ	X68819 GMGLYO G.max mRNA for Glyoxalase I	17	81	Nnr	206.01		
ssl.pk0005.e6	Ш	Y10820 GMGLUTTR G.max mRNA for glutathione transferase	19	20	Xnr	296.05		
ssl.pk0014.a1	Ħ	M20363 SOYHSP Soybean heat-shock protein (Gmhsp26-A) gene, complete cds	21	22	Znr	166.96	·	•
ssl.pk0020.b10	II	M20363 SOYHSP Soybean heat-shock protein (Gmhsp26-A) gene, complete cds.	23	24	Nnr	34.76		



	Citation			van der Zaal et al., Plant Mol. Biol. 16 (6), 983-998 (1991)	Czarnecka et al., Mol. Cell. Biol. 8 (3), 1113-1122 (1988)	Blattner et al., Science 277 (5331), 1453-1474 (1997)
	pLog Score*/E-Value**	104.00	72.04	4e-50	1e-53	2e-38
	Blast Algorithm	Zuz	Znr	Xnr	Xnr	Xnr
SEQ ID NO.	Peptide	26	28	8	36	% %
SEQ 1	Base	25	27	33	35	37
	Similarity Identified	M20363 SOYHSP Soybean heat-shock protein (Gmhsp26-A) gene, complete cds	X58573 ZMIN21 Maize In2-1 mRNA	Q03662 GTX1_Tobac Probable Glutathione S- Transferase (Auxin- Induced Protein Pgnt1/Pcnt110)	P32110 GTX6_Soybn Probable Glutathione S- Transferase (Heat Shock Protein 26A)	P77526 YFCG_Ecoli Hypothetical 24.5 Kd Protein In Pta-Folx Intergenic Region >gi 1788640 (AE000319) putative S-transferase [Escherichia coli]
	GST Class	Ħ	≥	gst III	gst [[[gst III
	Clone	ssm.pk0067.g5	se1.pk0017.f5	src3c.pk026.e6	sls1c.pk007.j17	sls2c.pk002.d9



			SEQ I	SEQ ID NO.			
Clone	GST Class	Similarity Identified	Base	Peptide	Blast Algorithm	pLog Score*/E-Value**	Citation
sls1c.pk003.f24	gst I	(U43126) glutathione Stransferase III homolog	39	40	Xnr	3e-55	Shaw et al., Unpublished
sdp2c.pk002.116	gst I	[Nacgreria] powieri] (AC004669) glutathione Stransferase [Arabidopsis thaliana]	41	42	Xnr	8-69	Rounsley et al., Unpublished
sfil.pk127.o7	gst III	(AF048978) 2,4-D inducible glutathione S-transferase [Glycine max]	43	44	Xnr	16-81	McGonigle et al., Plant Physiol. 117, 332 (1998)
sfl1.pk126.i6	gst I	(AC004669) glutathione S-transferase [<i>Arabidopsis thaliana</i>]	45	46	Xnr	. 2e-78	Rounsley et al., Unpublished
sπ3c.pk001.a17	gst III	P32110 GTX6_Soybn Probable Glutathione S-Transferase (Heat Shock Protein 26A)	47	48	Xnr	4e-48	Czarnecka et al., Mol. Cell. Biol. 8 (3), 1113-1122 (1988)
sgs1c.pk001.c16	gst III	Q03664 GTX3_Tobac Probable Glutathione S-Transferase (Auxin- Induced Protein Pcnt103)	49	50	Xnr	3e-52	van der Zaal et al., Plant Mol. Biol. 16 (6), 983-998 (1991)
sl2.pk0010.e2	gst III	P32110 GTX6_Soybn Probable Glutathione S-Transferase (Heat Shock	51	52	Xnr	6e-51	Czarnecka et al., Mol. Cell. Biol. 8 (3), 1113-1122 (1988)

	plog
ONO.	Blast
II DES	Similarity
	_

		-		fthis
	Citation	van der Zaal et al., Plant Mol Biol. 16 (6), 983-998 (1991)	Dixon et al., Unpublished	of the reported P-value statistical significance of the match, specifying the number of matches, with a given score, that are expected in a search of a database of this
pLog	Score*/E-Value**	6e-51	86-96	vith a given score, that are
Blast	Algorithm	Xnr	Xnr	nber of matches, v
	Peptide	54	56	cifying the nun
	Base	53	55	the match, spe
Similarity	Identified	Q03663 GTX2_Tobac Probable Glutathione S-Transferase (Auxin-	Induced Protein Pgnt35/Pcnt111) (AJ131580) glutathione transferase AtGST 10 [Arabidopsis thaliana]	 Plog represents the negative of the logarithm of the reported P-value Expect value. The Expect value estimates the statistical significance of size absolutely by chance
CST	Class	gst III	gst 1	gative of the le pect value esti e
	Clone	sgs2c.pk001.n19	sde4c.pk002.d4	* Plog represents the negative of the logarithm o ** Expect value. The Expect value estimates the size absolutely by chance



EXAMPLE 3

Expression of Chimeric Genes Encoding Soybean GST Enzymes in Maize Cells (Monocotyledon)

A chimeric gene comprising a cDNA encoding a soybean GST enzyme in sense orientation can be constructed by polymerase chain reaction (PCR) of the cDNA clone using appropriate oligonucleotide primers. Cloning sites (NcoI or Smal) can be incorporated into the oligonucleotides to provide proper orientation of the DNA fragment when inserted into the digested vector pML103 as described below. Amplification is then performed in a 100 uL volume in a standard PCR mix consisting of 0.4 mM of each oligonucleotide and 0.3 pM of target DNA in 10 10 mM Tris-HCl, pH 8.3, 50 mM KCl, 1.5 mM MgCl₂, 200 mM dGTP, 200 mM dATP, 200 mM dTTP, 200 mM dCTP and 0.025 unit DNA polymerase. Reactions are carried out in a Perkin-Elmer Cetus Thermocycler™ for 30 cycles comprising 1 min at 95 °C, 2 min at 55 °C and 3 min at 72 °C, with a final 7 min extension at 72 °C after the last cycle. The amplified DNA is then digested with 15 restriction enzymes NcoI and SmaI and fractionated on a 0.7% low melting point agarose gel in 40 mM Tris-acetate, pH 8.5, 1 mM EDTA. The appropriate band can be excised from the gel, melted at 68 °C and combined with a 4.9 kb Ncol-Smal fragment of the plasmid pML103. Plasmid pML103 has been deposited under the terms of the Budapest Treaty with the ATCC and bears 20 accession number ATCC 97366. The DNA segment from pML103 contains a 1.05 kb Sall-Ncol promoter fragment of the maize 27 kD zein gene and a 0.96 kb Smal-Sall fragment from the 3' end of the maize 10 kD zein gene in the vector pGem9Zf(+) (Promega Corp., 7113 Benhart Dr., Raleigh, NC). Vector and insert DNA can be ligated at 15 °C overnight, essentially as described (Maniatis). The 25 ligated DNA may then be used to transform E. coli XL1-Blue (Epicurian Coli XL-1; Stratagene). Bacterial transformants can be screened by restriction enzyme digestion of plasmid DNA and limited nucleotide sequence analysis using the dideoxy chain termination method (DNA Sequencing Kit, U. S. Biochemical). The resulting plasmid construct would comprise a chimeric gene encoding, in the 30 5' to 3' direction, the maize 27 kD zein promoter, a cDNA fragment encoding a plant gst enzyme, and the 10 kD zein 3' region.

The chimeric gene so constructed can then be introduced into corn cells by the following procedure. Immature corn embryos can be dissected from developing caryopses derived from crosses of the inbred corn lines H99 and LH132 (Indiana Agric. Exp. Station, Indiana, USA). The embryos are isolated 10 to 11 days after pollination when they are 1.0 to 1.5 mm long. The embryos are then placed with the axis-side facing down and in contact with agarose-solidified



N6 medium (Chu et al., Sci. Sin. Peking 18:659-668 (1975)). The embryos are kept in the dark at 27 °C. Friable embryogenic callus consisting of undifferentiated masses of cells with somatic proembryoids and embryoids borne on suspensor structures proliferates from the scutellum of these immature embryos. The embryogenic callus isolated from the primary explant can be 5 cultured on N6 medium and sub-cultured on this medium every 2 to 3 weeks. The plasmid, p35S/Ac (obtained from Dr. Peter Eckes, Hoechst Ag, v Frankfurt, Germany), may be used in transformation experiments in order to provide for a selectable marker. This plasmid contains the Pat gene (see European Patent Publication 0 242 236) which encodes phosphinothricin acetyl transferase (PAT). 10 The enzyme PAT confers resistance to herbicidal glutamine synthetase inhibitors such as phosphinothricin. The pat gene in p35S/Ac is under the control of the 35S promoter from Cauliflower Mosaic Virus (Odell et al. Nature 313:810-812 (1985)) and the 3M region of the nopaline synthase gene from the T-DNA of the Ti plasmid of Agrobacterium tumefaciens. The particle bombardment method 15 (Klein et al., Nature 327:70-73 (1987)) may be used to transfer genes to the callus culturé cells. According to this method, gold particles (1 µm in diameter) are coated with DNA using the following technique. Ten ug of plasmid DNAs are added to 50 µL of a suspension of gold particles (60 mg per mL). Calcium chloride (50 uL of a 2.5 M solution) and spermidine free base (20 µL of a 1.0 M 20 solution) are added to the particles. The suspension is vortexed during the addition of these solutions. After 10 minutes, the tubes are briefly centrifuged (5 sec at 15,000 rpm) and the supernatant removed. The particles are resuspended in 200 µL of absolute ethanol, centrifuged again and the supernatant removed. The ethanol rinse is performed again and the particles resuspended in a final 25 volume of 30 uL of ethanol. An aliquot (5 µL) of the DNA-coated gold particles can be placed in the center of a flying disc (Bio-Rad Labs, 861 Ridgeview Dr, Medina, OH). The particles are then accelerated into the corn tissue with a PDS-1000/He (Bio-Rad Labs, 861 Ridgeview Dr., Medina, OH), using a helium pressure of 1000 psi, a gap distance of 0.5 cm and a flying distance of 1.0 cm. 30

For bombardment, the embryogenic tissue is placed on filter paper over agarose-solidified N6 medium. The tissue is arranged as a thin lawn and covers a circular area of about 5 cm in diameter. The petri dish containing the tissue can be placed in the chamber of the PDS-1000/He approximately 8 cm from the stopping screen. The air in the chamber is then evacuated to a vacuum of 28 inches of Hg. The macrocarrier is accelerated with a helium shock wave using a rupture membrane that bursts when the He pressure in the shock tube reaches 1000 psi.

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Seven days after bombardment the tissue can be transferred to N6 medium that contains gluphosinate (2 mg per liter) and lacks casein or proline. The tissue continues to grow slowly on this medium. After an additional 2 weeks, the tissue can be transferred to fresh N6 medium containing gluphosinate. After 6 weeks, areas of about 1 cm in diameter of actively growing callus can be identified on some of the plates containing the glufosinate-supplemented medium. These calli may continue to grow when sub-cultured on the selective medium. Plants can be regenerated from the transgenic callus by first transferring clusters of tissue to N6 medium supplemented with 0.2 mg per liter of 2,4-D. After two weeks, the tissue can be transferred to regeneration medium (Fromm et al., *Bio/Technology* 8:833-839 (1990)).

EXAMPLE 4

Expression of Chimeric Genes in Tobacco Cells (Dicotyledon)

Cloning sites (XbaI or SmaI) can be incorporated into the oligonucleotides to provide proper orientation of the DNA fragment when inserted into the digested 15 vector pBI121 (Clonetech Inc., 6500 Donlon Rd, Somis, CA) or other appropriate transformation vector. Amplification could be performed as described above and the amplified DNA would then be digested with restriction enzymes XbaI and Smal and fractionated on a 0.7% low melting point agarose gel in 40 mM Trisacetate, pH 8.5, 1 mM EDTA. The appropriate band can be excised from the gel, 20 melted at 68 °C and combined with a 13 kb XbaI-SmaI fragment of the plasmid pBI121 and handled as in Example 3. The resulting plasmid construct would comprise a chimeric gene encoding, in the 5' to 3' direction, right border region. the nos promoter linked to the NPT II gene and a nos terminator region followed by a cauliflower mosaic virus 35S promoter linked to a cDNA fragment encoding 25 a plant GST enzyme and the nos terminator 3' region flanked by the left border region. The resulting plasmid could be mobilized into the Agrobacterium strain LBA4404/pAL4404 (Hoekema et al. Nature 303:179-180, (1983) using triparental matings (Ruvkin and Ausubel, Nature 289:85-88, (1981)). The resulting Agrobacterium strains could be then cocultivated with protoplasts (van den Elzen 30 et al. Plant Mol. Biol, 5:149-154 (1985)) or leaf disks (Horsch et al. Science 227:1229-1231, (1985)) of Nicotiana tabacum cv Wisconsin 38 and kanamycinresistant transformants would be selected. Kanamycin-resistant transformed tobacco plants would be regenerated.

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EXAMPLE 5

Expression Of Chimeric Genes In Microbial Cells And Purification Of Gene Product

Example 5 illustrates the expression of isolated full length genes encoding 5 class I, II, III or IV GST proteins in E. coli.

All clones listed in Tables 2 were selected on the basis of homology to known GSTs using the BLAST algorithm as described in Example 2. Plasmid DNA was purified using QIAFilter cartridges (Qiagen. Inc., 9600 De Soto Ave, Chatsworth, CA) according to the manufacturer's instructions. Sequence was generated on an ABI Automatic sequencer using dye terminator technology (U.S. 5366860; EP 272007) using a combination of vector and insert-specific primers. Sequence editing was performed in either DNAStar (DNA, Star Inc.) or the Wisconsin GCG program (Wisconsin Package Version 9.0, Genetics Computer Group (GCG), Madison, WI). All sequences represent coverage at least two times in both directions.

cDNA from full length clones listed in Table 2 encoding the instant soybean GST enzymes were inserted into the ligation independent cloning (LIC) pET30 vector (Novagen, Inc., 597 Science Dr, Madison, WI) under the control of the T7 promoter, according to the manufacturer's instructions (see Novagen publications "LIC Vector Kits", publication number TB163 and U.S. 4952496). The vector was then used to transform BL21(DE3) competent E. coli hosts. Primers with a specific 3' extension designed for ligation independent cloning were designed to amplify the GST gene (Maniatis). Amplification products were gel-purified and annealed into the LIC vector after treatment with T4 DNA polymerase (Novagen). Insert-containing vectors were then used to transform NovaBlue competent E. coli cells and transformants were screened for the presence of viable inserts. Clones in the correct orientation with respect to the T7 promoter were transformed into BL21(DE3) competent cells (Novagen) and selected on LB agar plates containing 50 µg/mL kanamycin. Colonies arising from this transformation were grown overnight at 37 °C in Lauria Broth to OD 600 = 0.6 and induced with 1 mM IPTG and allowed to grow for an additional two hours. The culture was harvested, resuspended in binding buffer, lysed with a French press and cleared by centrifugation.

Expressed protein was purified using the HIS binding kit (Novagen) according to the manufacturer's instructions. Purified protein was examined on 15-20% SDS Phast Gels (Bio-Rad Laboratories, 861 Ridgeview Dr, Medina, OH) and quantitated spectrophotometrically using BSA as a standard. Protein data is tabulated below in Table 3.

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TABLE 3
Protein Expression Data

11000112:05	TODIOII D'AIG	
CLONE	OD. 280	
se1.27b04	0.5	
ssm.pk0026.g11	0.44	
GSTa	53.6	
se3.03b09	29.1	
se6.pk0037.h4	0.6	
se6.pk0048.d7	1.41	
ses8w.pk0028.c6	0.56	
sr1.pk0011.d6	0.55	
ssl.pk0002.f7	0.70	
ssl.pk0005.e6	0.51	
ssl.pk0014.a1	0.62	
ssl.pk0020.b10	1.14	
ssm.pk0067.g5	1.64	
se1.pk0017.f5	0.37	

EXAMPLE 6

Screening Of Expressed GST Enzymes For Substrate Metabolism

The GST enzymes, expressed and purified as described in Example 5 were screened for their ability to metabolize a variety of substrates. Substrates tested included the three herbicide electrophilic substrates chlorimuron ethyl, alachlor, and Atrazine, and four model electrophilic substrates, 1-chloro-2, 4-dinitrobenzene (CDNB), ethacrynic acid, t-stilbene oxide, and 1,2-epoxy-3-(p-nitrophenoxy) propane. The enzymes were purified as described in Example 5 and used in the following assay.

For each enzyme, the conjugation reaction with each electrophilic substrate was performed by incubating 0.3 to 30 μ g enzyme in 0.1 M MOPS (pH 7.0) containing 0.4 mM of the electrophilic substrate. The reaction was initiated by the addition of glutathione to a final concentration of 4 mM. After 5 to 30 min, the reaction was terminated by the addition of 45 μ L acetonitrile, microfuged for 10 min to remove precipitated protein, and then the supernatent was removed and added to 65 μ L of water. This sample was chromatographed on a Zorbax C8 reverse phase HPLC column (3 μ m particle size, 6.2 mm x 8 cm) using a combination of linear gradients (flow = 1.5 mL/min) of 1% H₃PO₄ in water (solvent A) and 1% H₃PO₄ in acetonitrile. The gradient started with 5% solvent B, progressing from 5% to 75% solvent B between 1 and 10 min, and from 75% to 95% solvent B between 10 and 12 min. Control reactions without



enzyme were performed to correct for uncatalyzed reaction. Quantitation of metabolites were based on an assumption that the extinction coefficient of the conjugate was identical to that of the electrophilic substrate.

Table 4 shows the activity of each enzyme measured in nmol•min-l•mg-l with the seven different substrates. Activities are related to the activity of a known and previously isolated and purified GST enzyme, GH2/4 (also called GST 26) (Czarnecka et al., *Plant Molecular Biology* 3:45-58 (1984); Ulmasoz et al., *Plant Physiol* 108:919-927 (1995)).



TABLE 4

Activities of Soybean GST Enzymes	Ethacrynic T-	Ethyl Alachlor Atrazine CDNB Acid Oxide nitrophenoxy) propane	1 0.19 2364 13	104 0.13	1.40 515 17	111 0.46 2545 14	0	4 0.03 1394 13	7 0.03 470 14	71 0.03 1924 109		8 0.76 1379 4	30 0.00 2576 68	4.4 168 14364 1 0.07 20	0 0.00 15 11	0.0 0 0.00 15 5 0.04 2	00 000 30 3 015 0
Activities o	ıron		0.1 1						0.1 7		Ĩ				0.1 0	0.0 0.0	0
		me Class	14 III	111	.8.c6 III	S III	III 74	g5 III	110 111	III	III 9	TII LF	7 III	Ш	Ι	gl1 II	λ1
		GST Name	se6.pk0037.h4	GH2/4	ses8w.pk0028.c6	sr1.pk0034.c5	se6.pk0044.b7	ssm.pk0067.g5	ssl.pk0020.b10	GST-A	ssl.pk0005.e6	se6.pk0048.d7	ssl.pk0002.f7	se3.03p09	se1.27b04	ssm.pk0026.g11	201 ml/0017 fx



INDICATIONS RELATING TO A DEPOSITED MICROORGANISM

(PCT Rule 13bis)

A. The indications made below relate to the microorganism referr										
on page 9 , line 2	6									
B. IDENTIFICATION OF DEPOSIT	Further deposits are identified on an additional sheet									
Name of depositary institution										
AMERICAN TYPE CULTURE COLLECTION										
Address of depositary institution (including postal code and count	יליכ									
10801 University Blvd. Manassas, Virginia 20110-2209 USA										
	Accession Number									
Date of deposit	98512									
21 August 1997										
C. ADDITIONAL INDICATIONS (leave blank if not applicable	this information is continued on an additional sheet									
In respect of those designations in which a European patent is sought, a sample of the deposited microorganism will be made available until the publication of the mention of the grant of the European patent or until the date on which the application has been refused or withdrawn or is deemed to be withdrawn, only by the issue of such a sample to an expert nominated by the person requesting the sample. (Rule 28(4) EPC)										
D. DESIGNATED STATES FOR WHICH INDICATIONS ARE MADE (if the indications are not for all designated States)										
E. SEPARATE FURNISHING OF INDICATIONS (leave blan	k if not applicable)									
The indications listed below will be submitted to the International B Number of Deposit")	ureau later (specify the general nature of the indications e.g., "Accession									
For receiving Office use only	For International Bureau use only									
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Authorized officer	Authorized officer									

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What is claimed is:

- 1. An isolated nucleic acid fragment encoding a soybean GST enzyme selected from the group consisting of:
 - (a) an isolated nucleic acid fragment encoding all or a substantial portion of the amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:2, SEQ ID NO:4, SEQ ID NO:6, SEQ ID NO:8, SEQ ID NO:10, SEQ ID NO:12, SEQ ID NO:14, SEQ ID NO:16, SEQ ID NO:18, SEQ ID NO:20, SEQ ID NO:22, SEQ ID NO:24, SEQ ID NO:26, and SEQ ID NO:28;
 - (b) an isolated nucleic acid fragment that is substantially similar to an isolated nucleic acid fragment encoding all or a substantial portion of the amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:2, SEQ ID NO:4, SEQ ID NO:6, SEQ ID NO:8, SEQ ID NO:10, SEQ ID NO:12, SEQ ID NO:14, SEQ ID NO:16, SEQ ID NO:18, SEQ ID NO:20, SEQ ID NO:22, SEQ ID NO:24, SEQ ID NO:26, and SEQ ID NO:28; and
 - (c) an isolated nucleic acid fragment that is complementary to (a) or (b).
- 2. The isolated nucleic acid fragment of Claim 1 selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:1, SEQ ID NO:3, SEQ ID NO:5, SEQ ID NO:7, SEQ ID NO:9, SEQ ID NO:11, SEQ ID NO:13, SEQ ID NO:15, SEQ ID NO:17, SEQ ID NO:19, SEQ ID NO:21, SEQ ID NO:23, SEQ ID NO:25, and SEQ ID NO:27.
- 3. A polypeptide encoded by the isolated nucleic acid fragment of Claim 1.
- 4. The polypeptide of Claim 3 selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:2, SEQ ID NO:4, SEQ ID NO:6, SEQ ID NO:8, SEQ ID NO:10, SEQ ID NO:12, SEQ ID NO:14, SEQ ID NO:16, SEQ ID NO:18, SEQ ID NO:20, SEQ ID NO:22, SEQ ID NO:24, SEQ ID NO:26, and SEQ ID NO:28.
- 5. A chimeric gene comprising the isolated nucleic acid fragment of Claim 1 operably linked to suitable regulatory sequences.
- 6. A transformed host cell comprising a host cell and the chimeric gene of Claim 5.
- 7. The transformed host cell of Claim 6 wherein the host cell is a plant cell.
 - 8. The transformed host cell of Claim 6 wherein the host cell is E. coli.
- 9. A method of altering the level of expression of a soybean GST enzyme in a host cell comprising:
 - (a) transforming a host cell with the chimeric gene of Claim 5 and;

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(b) growing the transformed host cell produced in step (a) under conditions that are suitable for expression of the chimeric gene resulting in production of altered levels of a soybean GST enzyme in the transformed host cell relative to expression levels of an untransformed host cell.

- 10. A method of obtaining a nucleic acid fragment encoding all or a substantial portion of the amino acid sequence encoding a soybean GST enzyme comprising:
 - (a) probing a cDNA or genomic library with the nucleic acid fragment of Claim 1;
 - (b) identifying a DNA clone that hybridizes with the nucleic acid fragment of Claim 1; and
 - (c) sequencing the cDNA or genomic fragment that comprises the clone identified in step (b),

wherein the sequenced cDNA or genomic fragment encodes all or substantially all of the amino acid sequence encoding a soybean GST enzyme.

- 11. A method of obtaining a nucleic acid fragment encoding all or a substantial portion of the amino acid sequence encoding a soybean GST enzyme comprising:
 - (a) synthesizing an oligonucleotide primer corresponding to a portion of the sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:1, SEQ ID NO:3, SEQ ID NO:5, SEQ ID NO:7, SEQ ID NO:9, SEQ ID NO:11, SEQ ID NO:13, SEQ ID NO:15, SEQ ID NO:17, SEQ ID NO:19, SEQ ID NO:21, SEQ ID NO:23, SEQ ID NO:25, and SEQ ID NO:27;
 - (b) amplifying a cDNA insert present in a cloning vector using the oligonucleotide primer of step (a) and a primer representing sequences of the cloning vector,

wherein the amplified cDNA insert encodes a portion of an amino acid sequence encoding a soybean GST enzyme.

- 12. The product of the method of Claims 10 or 11.
- 13. A method for identifying a chemical compound that inhibits the activity of a soybean GST enzyme encoded by the nucleic acid fragment of Claim 1, the method comprising the steps of:
 - (a) transforming a host cell with a chimeric gene comprising the
 nucleic acid fragment of Claim 1 encoding a soybean GST
 enzyme, the chimeric gene operably linked to at least one suitable
 regulatory sequence;

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- (b) growing the transformed host cell of step (a) under conditions suitable for expression of the chimeric gene resulting in production of the GST enzyme;
- (c) optionally purifying the GST enzyme expressed by the transformed host cell;
- (d) contacting the GST enzyme with a chemical compound of interest; and
- (e) identifying the chemical compound of interest that reduces the activity of the soybean GST enzyme relative to the activity of the soybean GST enzyme in the absence of the chemical compound of interest.

14. The method of Claim 13 wherein step (d) is carried out in the presence of at least one electrophilic substrate and at least one thiol donor.

- 15. The method of Claim 13 wherein the nucleic acid fragment is selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:1, SEQ ID NO:3, SEQ ID NO:5, SEQ ID NO:7, SEQ ID NO:9, SEQ ID NO:11, SEQ ID NO:13, SEQ ID NO:15, SEQ ID NO:17, SEQ ID NO:19, SEQ ID NO:21, SEQ ID NO:23, SEQ ID NO:25 and SEQ ID NO:27, and wherein the GST enzyme is selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:2, SEQ ID NO:4, SEQ ID NO:6, SEQ ID NO:8, SEQ ID NO:10, SEQ ID NO:12, SEQ ID NO:14, SEQ ID NO:16, SEQ ID NO:18, SEQ ID NO:20, SEQ ID NO:22, SEQ ID NO:24, SEQ ID NO:26, and SEQ ID NO:28.
 - 16. A method for identifying a chemical compound that inhibits the activity of a soybean GST enzyme encoded by the nucleic acid fragment of Claim 1, the method comprising the steps of:
 - (a) transforming a host cell with a chimeric gene comprising a nucleic acid fragment of Claim 1 encoding a soybean GST enzyme, the chimeric gene operably linked to at least one regulatory sequence;
 - (b) growing the transformed host cell of step (a) under conditions suitable for expression of the chimeric gene resulting in production of the GST enzyme;
 - (c) contacting the transformed host cell of step (b) with an inhibitor candidate; and
 - (d) comparing the phenotype of the transformed host cell contacted with an inhibitor candidate with the phenotype of the transformed host cell that was not contacted with an inhibitor candidate to

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identify the chemical compound that inhibits the activity of the soybean GST enzyme.

- 17. The method of Claim 16 wherein the nucleic acid fragment of Claim 1 is selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:1, SEQ ID NO:3. SEQ ID NO:5, SEQ ID NO:7, SEQ ID NO:9, SEQ ID NO:11, SEQ ID NO:13, SEQ ID NO:15, SEQ ID NO:17, SEQ ID NO:19, SEQ ID NO:21, SEQ ID NO:23, SEQ ID NO:25, and SEQ ID NO:27, and wherein the soybean GST enzyme is selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:2, SEQ ID NO:4, SEQ ID NO:6, SEQ ID NO:8, SEQ ID NO:10, SEQ ID NO:12, SEQ ID NO:14, SEO ID NO:16, SEQ ID NO:18, SEQ ID NO:20, SEQ ID NO:22, SEQ ID 10 NO:24, SEO ID NO:26, and SEQ ID NO:28.
 - 18. A method for identifying a substrate for a GST enzyme, the GST enzyme encoded by the isolated nucleic acid fragment of Claim 1, the method comprising the steps of:
 - (a) transforming a host cell with a chimeric gene comprising an isolated nucleic acid fragment of Claim 1 encoding a soybean GST enzyme, the chimeric gene operably linked to at least one suitable regulatory sequence;
 - (b) growing the transformed host cell of step (a) under conditions suitable for expression of the chimeric gene resulting in production of the soybean GST enzyme;
 - (c) optionally purifying the GST enzyme expressed by the transformed host cell;
 - (d) contacting the soybean GST enzyme with a substrate candidate; and
 - (e) comparing the activity of soybean GST enzyme that has been contacted with the substrate candidate with soybean GST enzyme that has not been contacted with the substrate candidate,

selecting substrate candidates that increase the activity of the soybean GST enzyme relative to the activity of the soybean GST enzyme in the absence of a substrate candidate.

- 19. The method of Claim 18 wherein step (d) is carried out in the presence of at least one thiol donor.
- 20. The method of Claim 18 wherein the nucleic acid fragment of Claim 1 is selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:1, SEQ ID NO:3, SEO ID NO:5, SEO ID NO:7, SEO ID NO:9, SEO ID NO:11, SEO ID NO:13, SEQ ID NO:15, SEQ ID NO:17, SEQ ID NO:19, SEQ ID NO:21, SEQ ID NO:23, SEQ ID NO:25 and SEQ ID NO:27, and wherein the soybean GST

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enzyme is selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:2, SEQ ID NO:4, SEQ ID NO:6, SEQ ID NO:8, SEQ ID NO:10, SEQ ID NO:12, SEQ ID NO:14, SEQ ID NO:16, SEQ ID NO:18, SEQ ID NO:20, SEQ ID NO:22, SEQ ID NO:24, SEQ ID NO:26, and SEQ ID NO:28.

- 21. A method for identifying a substrate for a soybean GST enzyme, the method comprising the steps of:
 - (a) transforming a host cell with a chimeric gene comprising a nucleic acid fragment of Claim 1, the chimeric gene operably linked to at least one suitable regulatory sequence;
 - (b) growing the transformed host cell of step (a) under conditions suitable for expression of the chimeric gene resulting in production of the soybean GST enzyme;
 - (c) contacting the transformed host cell of step (b) with a soybean GST substrate candidate; and
 - (d) comparing the phenotype of the transformed host cell contacted with the substrate candidate with the phenotype of the transformed host cell that was not contacted with the substrate candidate to identify a soybean GST enzyme substrate.
- 22. The method of Claim 21 wherein the nucleic acid fragment of
 20 Claim 1 is selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:1, SEQ ID NO:3, SEQ ID NO:5, SEQ ID NO:7, SEQ ID NO:9, SEQ ID NO:11, SEQ ID NO:13, SEQ ID NO:15, SEQ ID NO:17, SEQ ID NO:19, SEQ ID NO:21, SEQ ID NO:23, SEQ ID NO:25 and SEQ ID NO:27, and wherein the soybean GST enzyme is selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:2, SEQ ID NO:4,
 25 SEQ ID NO:6, SEQ ID NO:8, SEQ ID NO:10, SEQ ID NO:12, SEQ ID NO:14, SEQ ID NO:16, SEQ ID NO:18, SEQ ID NO:20, SEQ ID NO:22, SEQ ID NO:24, SEQ ID NO:26, and SEQ ID NO:28.
 - 23. An isolated nucleic acid fragment encoding a soybean GST enzyme selected from the group consisting of:
 - (a) an isolated nucleic acid fragment encoding all or a substantial portion of the amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:34, SEQ ID NO:36, SEQ ID NO:38, SEQ ID NO:40, SEQ ID NO:42, SEQ ID NO:44, SEQ ID NO:46, SEQ ID NO:48, SEQ ID NO:50, SEQ ID NO:52, SEQ ID NO:54, and SEQ ID NO:56;
 - (b) an isolated nucleic acid fragment that is substantially similar to an isolated nucleic acid fragment encoding all or a substantial portion of the amino acid sequence selected from the group

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consisting of SEQ ID NO:34, SEQ ID NO:36, SEQ ID NO:38, SEQ ID NO:40, SEQ ID NO:42, SEQ ID NO:44, SEQ ID NO:46, SEQ ID NO:48, SEQ ID NO:50, SEQ ID NO:52, SEQ ID NO:54, and SEQ ID NO:56; and

- (c) an isolated nucleic acid fragment that is complementary to (a) or (b).
- 24. The isolated nucleic acid fragment of Claim 23 selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:33, SEQ ID NO:35, SEQ ID NO:37, SEQ ID NO:39, SEQ ID NO:41, SEQ ID NO:43, SEQ ID NO:45, SEQ ID NO:47, SEQ ID NO:49, SEQ ID NO:51, SEQ ID NO:53, and SEQ ID NO:55.
- 25. A polypeptide encoded by the isolated nucleic acid fragment of Claim 23.
- 26. The polypeptide of Claim 25 selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:34, SEQ ID NO:36, SEQ ID NO:38, SEQ ID NO:40, SEQ ID NO:40, SEQ ID NO:42, SEQ ID NO:44, SEQ ID NO:46, SEQ ID NO:48, SEQ ID NO:50, SEQ ID NO:52, SEQ ID NO:54, and SEQ ID NO:56
- 27. A chimeric gene comprising the isolated nucleic acid fragment of Claim 23 operably linked to suitable regulatory sequences.
- 28. A transformed host cell comprising a host cell and the chimeric gene 20 of Claim 27.
 - 29. The transformed host cell of Claim 28 wherein the host cell is a plant cell.
 - 30. The transformed host cell of Claim 28 wherein the host cell is E. coli.
 - 31. A method of altering the level of expression of a soybean GST enzyme in a host cell comprising:
 - (a) transforming a host cell with the chimeric gene of Claim 27 and;
 - (b) growing the transformed host cell produced in step (a) under conditions that are suitable for expression of the chimeric gene resulting in production of altered levels of a soybean GST enzyme in the transformed host cell relative to expression levels of an untransformed host cell.
 - 32. A method of obtaining a nucleic acid fragment encoding all or a substantial portion of the amino acid sequence encoding a soybean GST enzyme comprising:
 - (a) probing a cDNA or genomic library with the nucleic acid fragment of Claim 23;
 - (b) identifying a DNA clone that hybridizes with the nucleic acid fragment of Claim 23; and

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(c) sequencing the cDNA or genomic fragment that comprises the clone identified in step (b),

wherein the sequenced cDNA or genomic fragment encodes all or substantially all of the amino acid sequence encoding a soybean GST enzyme.

- 33. A method of obtaining a nucleic acid fragment encoding all or a substantial portion of the amino acid sequence encoding a soybean GST enzyme comprising:
 - (a) synthesizing at least one oligonucleotide primer corresponding to a portion of the sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:33, SEQ ID NO:35, SEQ ID NO:37, SEQ ID NO:39, SEQ ID NO:41, SEQ ID NO:43, SEQ ID NO:45, SEQ ID NO:47, SEQ ID NO:49, SEQ ID NO:51, SEQ ID NO:53, and SEQ ID NO:55;
 - (b) amplifying a cDNA insert present in a cloning vector using the oligonucleotide primer of step (a),

wherein the amplified cDNA insert encodes a portion of an amino acid sequence encoding a soybean GST enzyme.

- 34. The product of the method of Claims 32 or 33.
- 35. A method for identifying a chemical compound that inhibits the
 activity of a soybean GST enzyme encoded by the nucleic acid fragment of
 Claim 23, the method comprising the steps of:
 - (a) transforming a host cell with a chimeric gene comprising the nucleic acid fragment of Claim 23 encoding a soybean GST enzyme, the chimeric gene operably linked to at least one suitable regulatory sequence;
 - (b) growing the transformed host cell of step (a) under conditions suitable for expression of the chimeric gene resulting in production of the GST enzyme;
 - (c) optionally purifying the GST enzyme expressed by the transformed host cell;
 - (d) contacting the GST enzyme with a chemical compound of interest; and
 - (e) identifying the chemical compound of interest that reduces the activity of the soybean GST enzyme relative to the activity of the soybean GST enzyme in the absence of the chemical compound of interest.
 - 36. The method of Claim 35 wherein step (d) is carried out in the presence of at least one electrophilic substrate and at least one thiol donor.

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- 37. The method of Claim 35 wherein the nucleic acid fragment is selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:33, SEQ ID NO:35, SEQ ID NO:37, SEQ ID NO:39, SEQ ID NO:41, SEQ ID NO:43, SEQ ID NO:45, SEQ ID NO:45, SEQ ID NO:47, SEQ ID NO:49, SEQ ID NO:51, SEQ ID NO:53, and SEQ ID NO:55, and wherein the GST enzyme is selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:34, SEQ ID NO:36, SEQ ID NO:38, SEQ ID NO:40, SEQ ID NO:42, SEQ ID NO:44, SEQ ID NO:46, SEQ ID NO:48, SEQ ID NO:50, SEQ ID NO:52, SEQ ID NO:54, and SEQ ID NO:56.
- 38. A method for identifying a chemical compound that inhibits the activity of a soybean GST enzyme encoded by the nucleic acid fragment of Claim 23, the method comprising the steps of:
 - (a) transforming a host cell with a chimeric gene comprising a nucleic acid fragment of Claim 23 encoding a soybean GST enzyme, the chimeric gene operably linked to at least one regulatory sequence;
 - (b) growing the transformed host cell of step (a) under conditions suitable for expression of the chimeric gene resulting in production of the GST enzyme;
 - (c) contacting the transformed host cell of step (b) with an inhibitor candidate; and
 - (d) comparing the phenotype of the transformed host cell contacted with an inhibitor candidate with the phenotype of the transformed host cell that was not contacted with an inhibitor candidate to identify the chemical compound that inhibits the activity of the soybean GST enzyme.
 - 39. The method of Claim 38 wherein the nucleic acid fragment of Claim 23 is selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:33, SEQ ID NO:35, SEQ ID NO:37, SEQ ID NO:39, SEQ ID NO:41, SEQ ID NO:43, SEQ ID NO:45, SEQ ID NO:47, SEQ ID NO:49, SEQ ID NO:51, SEQ ID NO:53, and SEQ ID NO:55, and wherein the soybean GST enzyme is selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:34, SEQ ID NO:36, SEQ ID NO:38, SEQ ID NO:40, SEQ ID NO:42, SEQ ID NO:44, SEQ ID NO:46, SEQ ID NO:48, SEQ ID NO:50, SEQ ID NO:52, SEQ ID NO:54, and SEQ ID NO:56.
 - 40. A method for identifying a substrate for a GST enzyme, the GST enzyme encoded by the isolated nucleic acid fragment of Claim23, the method comprising the steps of:
 - (a) transforming a host cell with a chimeric gene comprising an isolated nucleic acid fragment of Claim 23 encoding a soybean

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- GST enzyme, the chimeric gene operably linked to at least one suitable regulatory sequence;
- (b) growing the transformed host cell of step (a) under conditions suitable for expression of the chimeric gene resulting in production of the soybean GST enzyme;
- (c) optionally purifying the GST enzyme expressed by the transformed host cell;
- (d) contacting the soybean GST enzyme with a substrate candidate; and
- (e) comparing the activity of soybean GST enzyme that has been contacted with the substrate candidate with soybean GST enzyme that has not been contacted with the substrate candidate,

selecting substrate candidates that increase the activity of the soybean GST enzyme relative to the activity of the soybean GST enzyme in the absence of a substrate candidate.

- 41. The method of Claim 40 wherein step (d) is carried out in the presence of at least one thiol donor.
- The method of Claim 40 wherein the nucleic acid fragment of Claim 23 is selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:33, SEQ ID NO:35, SEQ ID NO:37, SEQ ID NO:39, SEQ ID NO:41, SEQ ID NO:43, SEQ ID NO:45, SEQ ID NO:47, SEQ ID NO:49, SEQ ID NO:51, SEQ ID NO:53, and SEQ ID NO:55, and wherein the soybean GST enzyme is selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:34, SEQ ID NO:36, SEQ ID NO:38, SEQ ID NO:40, SEQ ID NO:42, SEQ ID NO:44, SEQ ID NO:46, SEQ ID NO:48, SEQ ID NO:50, SEQ ID NO:52, SEQ ID NO:54, and SEQ ID NO:56.
 - 43. A method for identifying a substrate for a soybean GST enzyme, the method comprising the steps of:
 - (a) transforming a host cell with a chimeric gene comprising a nucleic acid fragment of Claim 23, the chimeric gene operably linked to at least one suitable regulatory sequence;
 - (b) growing the transformed host cell of step (a) under conditions suitable for expression of the chimeric gene resulting in production of the soybean GST enzyme;
 - (c) contacting the transformed host cell of step (b) with a soybean GST substrate candidate; and
 - (d) comparing the phenotype of the transformed host cell contacted with the substrate candidate with the phenotype of the



transformed host cell that was not contacted with the substrate candidate to identify a soybean GST enzyme substrate.

44. The method of Claim 43 wherein the nucleic acid fragment of Claim 23 is selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:33, SEQ ID NO:35, SEQ ID NO:37, SEQ ID NO:39, SEQ ID NO:41, SEQ ID NO:43, SEQ ID NO:45, SEQ ID NO:47, SEQ ID NO:49, SEQ ID NO:51, SEQ ID NO:53, and SEQ ID NO:55, and wherein the soybean GST enzyme is selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:34, SEQ ID NO:36, SEQ ID NO:38, SEQ ID NO:40, SEQ ID NO:42, SEQ ID NO:44, SEQ ID NO:46, SEQ ID NO:48, SEQ ID

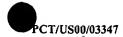
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SEQUENCE LISTING

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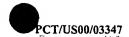
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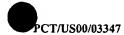
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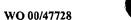


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WO 00/47728

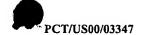




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